

ALCESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL



THE RECORD

83-84

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No. 150

Autumn 1984

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The Editors would like to thank the following people for
their invaluable help:

Miss Morris - who collected and compiled
the Old Scholars' News.

Mr. Sparkes - who provided help and
advice with the artwork.

Giles Martin - who designed the frontis-
piece.

Jonathan Smith - who designed this year's
cover.

Chris Christou - who provided the amazing
facts for 'Did you Know...?'
(The Editors regret that
they can accept no responsi-
bility for the veracity of
any of these statements.)

Mr. Balaam, Jonathan Guest, John Holder, Trevor
Humphrey, Clifford Moore and Richard McCarthy, who dealt with
the distribution and sale of the magazine to Old Scholars.

AUTUMN TERM

The Autumn Term is usually a busy and productive one, and the Autumn Term of 1983 was no exception. It began with a flying start, in more ways than one, when, in September, the Royal Navy paid a visit to the School with one of its Wessex helicopters.

In November, Marle Hall was once again invaded by the entire 4th Form, and near the end of the month, Suzanne Dando visited the School to promote a sponsored event in aid of the British Olympic Team.

In December, Mr. Percival took the Upper 6th French group to the Barbican where they saw 'Tartuffe' by Molière and 'Molière' by Bogdanov, both performed by the R.S.C.

The term's activities reached a climax in the final few weeks with the Senior Choir singing in 'Carols Together' at the Greville High School. The Alcester Grammar School Carol Service, an ever-popular event, filled St. Nicholas's Church as usual. A wide range of fashions was again displayed at the annual Non-Uniform Day in aid of Barnardo's; some of these were more outstanding than others. The Junior Party, for the 1st and 2nd formers, was a great success again with both juniors and sixth formers alike enjoying the fun.

Finally, we must record a red-letter day in the annals of the Sixth Form - December 20th 1984. This was the opening day of the new common-room which had been under construction for the whole term, and it turned out that it had all been worthwhile, as the Sixth Form settled into its comfortable, even luxurious, new headquarters.

THE ROYAL NAVY VISIT

On 20th October 1983 the School was visited by the Royal Navy. At the appointed time the pupils romped out to the top field as the Royal Navy Wessex helicopter circled overhead and landed on a roped-off section of the field. After a brief time on the ground it took off and flew away behind the School. A pause of a few seconds followed, after which the helicopter reappeared flying low and fast over the watching crowd. When everyone had picked themselves up off the ground, brushed themselves down, and had all but stopped cursing, the helicopter returned and flew back the other way.

While the helicopter was out of sight a naval officer on the ground inflated a rubber dinghy and sat in it (no-one had the heart to tell him that the river was just over the fence). He then lit a red flare and the helicopter returned. It hovered above the dinghy and an airman was let down on the winch. When he reached the dinghy, he attached himself to the still dry naval officer and they were both winched back up. The rest of the display consisted of a few more overhead passes and then the helicopter landed once more.

The display having finished, everyone returned to the school where a talk on the role of the Royal Navy was delivered to the Sixth and Fifth Forms by a team of R.N. officers. This talk was very informative and was accompanied by some impressive audio-visuals; together with the flying display it made a very interesting morning, much enjoyed by all.

Richard Catterall

MARLE HALL REVISITED

It was Monday morning. The Fourth Form arose early, and dragged their suitcases schoolwards. Little did they know what was in store for them.

Suitcases were dumped by the Biology Lab. until the coach arrived, along with the A.G.S. minibus. The eager multitudes flocked around these vehicles, leaving a miserable few standing in the cold, awaiting the Greville mode of transport. It was nowhere to be seen. It remained nowhere to be seen for the next half-hour. Then it arrived. We scrambled in and drove to the Greville, Mr. Simpson got out to fetch a disc for the tachometer, only to find that we did not need one.

Apart from various delays and traffic-jams and the driver trying to kill us, the journey was uneventful. Mr. Simpson even found us a chip shop and a loo. We arrived - there is no disguising it - late. Much so. We collected our kit, and, Mr. Simpson determined as ever to do us in, took us for a walk designed by sadists for morons, of which there was no shortage.

We unpacked, ate tea, and discovered that the food was indigestible. Then we attended a lecture on safety. The unfortunate victims were beginning to see that A WEEK OF SLAVERY AND TORTURE LAY AHEAD.

Tuesday, for our group, was MOUNTAIN DAY. Those in the third year, take note, and pay heed. THIS IS THE WORST DAY OF THE LOT. I was ill half-way up. Still it was not too bad, although a lot of people decided to hate me, with the exception of an extremely dirty dog, which emitted a pungent and obnoxious odour, and which was probably infested too. Fortunately, Duke, (for such was the canine's name), seemed to like Matthew Farmer even more than me, which was a relief so long as you stayed away from M.F. afterwards.

Wednesday was gorge day. It was gorgeous. The dog did not come, much to our relief. It was WET. I rashly offered a Mars Bar for 'wettest person at the end of the day'. About three minutes later Neil Rutter fell off a slab into some 'not very deep' ice-cold water up to his neck. I cursed him. Having achieved the impossible several times, we were finally told that we were going to climb a tree. 'Oh good', I said, 'I'm ace at climbing trees'. I am. But I had imagined something with branches. It didn't have any. I lie. It had three, right at the top where nobody could reach them. 'Oh *****', I said, and commenced investigations into WAYS ROUND IT. There were a couple but they had long drops under them. The tree was between two halves of a rock which had been split by the frost and you had to sort of shuffle your bottom up the rock while holding on to the tree. Lara did it in seconds. I didn't do it at all. I stood on Rutter's shoulder and Matthew pulled me up, having been kicked in the face by N.Moule, Esquire, who had used a similar method to mine. After that ordeal we went home.

On Thursday we went for a walk with Mrs. Albon, who is a human being, which involved climbing one mountain to look at another one, in fact the one that nearly killed us on Tuesday. Someone had moved it so it wasn't there.

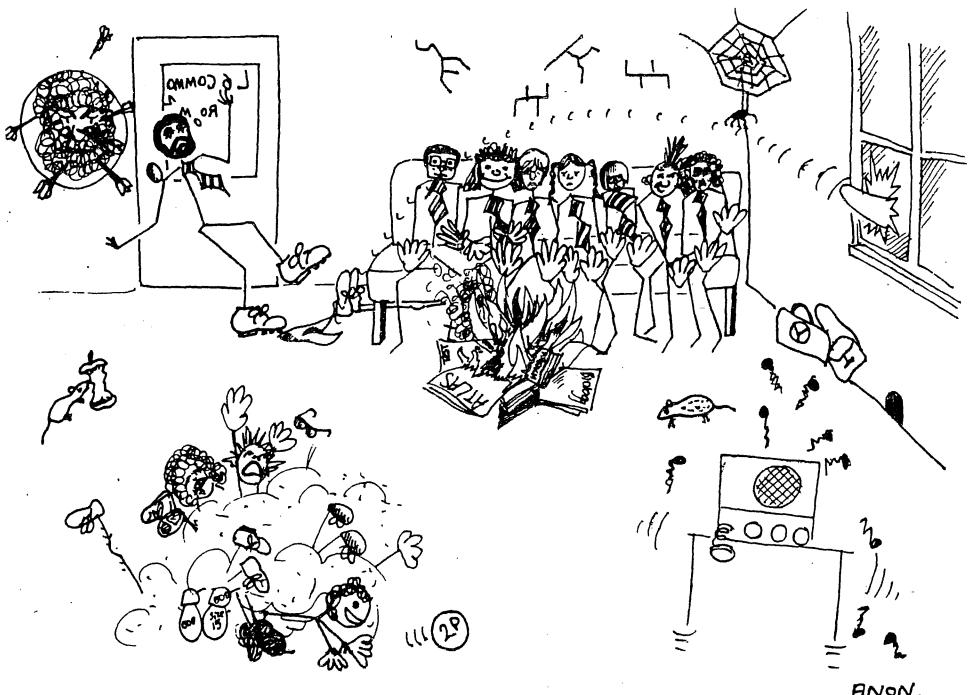
Friday was FOREST DAY. Mr. Micklenthwaite, Famous Geography Teacher was in charge. He should be banned from driving minibuses on bumpy roads.

Having Mr.M, Famous Geog. Teacher in charge, we were, of course, lost for the greater part of the day, tossing coins wherever the road BRANCHED OFF, and usually the leader was LEAFING us behind. However it was still a TREEmendous day, despite the puns and me tearing half the seat off my jeans (MUD your own business), until we got back to the minibus, having lost A.Hedges,Esq. and found him again (pity). It wasn't there. Mr. Simpson had punctured it. Well, one of the tyres then. Also, he couldn't change the tyre because it didn't occur to him that the screwthreads were back-to-front. It wouldn't have occurred to me either, but that is a secondary consideration. Eventually we arrived back, just two hours late, and scrubbed our kit, put NIKWAX on our boots, also our clothes, hair, each other, etc.etc. and went in for TEA.

Then we went home, arrived alive, (Mr.Simpson having given up mass murder as a hobby), and dropped dead.

Tabitha Davison

THE LOWER SIXTH COMMON ROOM



SPRING TERM

The Spring Term, taking its lead from its predecessor, was packed with a wide variety of events and activities. The first day saw the Upper 6th well established in its new common room complete with radio, urn, fridge and toaster; not even the approach of the mock examinations at the end of January could cast a shadow over things.

During the term a number of speakers visited the School from organizations such as Amnesty International, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace Through Nato.

In March a number of pupils, both junior and senior, played host to pupils from Le Loreaux-Bottreau and Nantes, and Mr. Sparkes took a party to the 'Genius of Venice' exhibition in London. The annual pancake race in Alcester High Street was well attended by sixth formers and the School was able to boast the winners of both the boys' and the girls' races. Another annual race, this time the interhouse cross-country, was well supplied with entrants from all sections of the School (except the Staff) and of all degrees of fitness.

Speech Day, also in March, was again well attended by parents and former pupils. Alan Howarth M.P. was the speaker and presented the certificates and prizes.

In April, nine pupils under the direction of Miss Bywater and Mr. Green, presented an excellent production of 'Roots' by Arnold Wesker.

The term closed with a boisterous and entertaining final week as the first Sixth Form Rag Week was put into action.

A SHORT WALK IN THE COTSWOLDS

On Friday 10th February, a group of 5th and 6th formers, who had no exams on the last day of the 'mocks', invaded the Cotswold Hills in the company of Mrs. Hughes and Mr. Maund.

We set off from Stanton, after stocking up in the village shop, and continued to Stanway and Wood Stanway, then to Stumps Cross - the remains of an old wayside cross - and on to Cromwell's Seat via Beckworth Camp. Here, by common agreement, and in deference to Teresa's and Mark's blisters, we had lunch.

After lunch we went on to Hailes Wood and Hailes Abbey (of Pardoner's Tale fame). Here the faint-hearted among us took the short-cut back to Winchcombe, while we brave (or mad) ones set off up Salter's Lane and Hill, getting marvellous views of the surrounding countryside.

Once down the other side we walked through wet fields to Sudeley Castle, then on to Winchcombe and the minibus.

We would like to thank Mrs. Hughes and Mr. Maund for organizing it all, for putting up with us, and making the walk so enjoyable.

Helen Wright

Did you know ?

.... there is enough copper in the human body to completely rewire a building the size of Buckingham Palace.

.... the eggs of the South American Ringed Plover are roughly three times the size of the female bird.

SKI TRIP TO CLAVIERE 1984

On the 7th of January 1984 a group of potentially excellent skiers set off to Claviere on the French-Italian border with Mr.Micklethwaite, Mr.Cowell and Mrs.Bonham, who had unbelievably managed to break her foot before we even left Alcester!

We arrived at the Hotel Roma in mid-afternoon; an hour later we were sent to have boots and skis fitted ready for the next morning. On our first day of ski-ing we were split up into different groups according to our previous ski experience and the first lesson was rather discouraging as the beginners had to side step up the ski-slopes but we suffered no broken arms or legs so the day was a success! By the second day everyone was travelling on the drag lifts and the 'experienced' skiers could use the chair-lifts.

As the week went on we progressed from snow-ploughs on the nursery slopes to parallel turns on the red runs and eventually most of us managed to master the terrifying drag-lifts. The week remained injury free apart from some torn thumb ligaments due to a kamikaze ski-run by Jason Parker.

About the middle of the week a 'Miss Claviere' competition was held for the boys! Clive Cowin was placed third and following this, he and Kevin Brannan, alias Erica and Fifi, won the talent competition with a wild strip that delighted the girls!

Saturday was our last day of ski-ing; in the morning we took our tests and everyone did well with medals ranging from 1 star silver to a modest third year with 2 star gold. In the evening we were presented with our various medals and each group in turn presented its instructors with whisky, wine or vodka to drown their sorrows in, or use for rejoicing after we had gone. On the following day we made our way back home, most of us sorry to say 'Arrivederci' to Claviere.

We arrived home late that night with the bright prospect of school in the morning. Bleary-eyed, we all managed it.

Our thanks must go to Mr.Micklethwaite, Mr.Cowell and Mrs.Bonham for organising it all and taking us on a 'brill' holiday.

Hayley Monks
Gina Ravenhall
Wendy Quinney

THE PANCAKE RACE

On Tuesday the 13th March, several members of the Sixth Form embarked upon what proved to be a risky and injury-fraught venture - the Alcester Pancake Race.

Twenty minutes before the men's race was due to start, we were to be found outside the Post Office, allowing ourselves to be photographed by an admiring public and discussing our chances with the other competitors.

Most people assumed that they would not be able to launch their pancakes from their pans, or would do so in extremely violent fashion, further slowing themselves already hampered by . . . (the handicaps ranged from a tight apron to having one leg tied to another competitor!).

As a result, much time was spent in perfecting the all-important toss. The possibilities of banging rival competitors on the back of the head 'by mistake' were also discussed, but dismissed as impractical since dented frying pans had to be paid for.

Eventually the men - a very motley but colourful-looking bunch consisting mainly of Greville High School and Alcester Grammar School pupils - were spread out across the road for the start. Mr. Cole, the High Bailiff, started us and we leapt away with great energy. Experience seemed to tell however, for running neck and neck in the final straight were Richard McCarthy of AGS who showed good form in last year's race and a real chef from the Cherrytrees Motel who was owned and trained by Mr. Oldham - formerly a tutor at AGS.

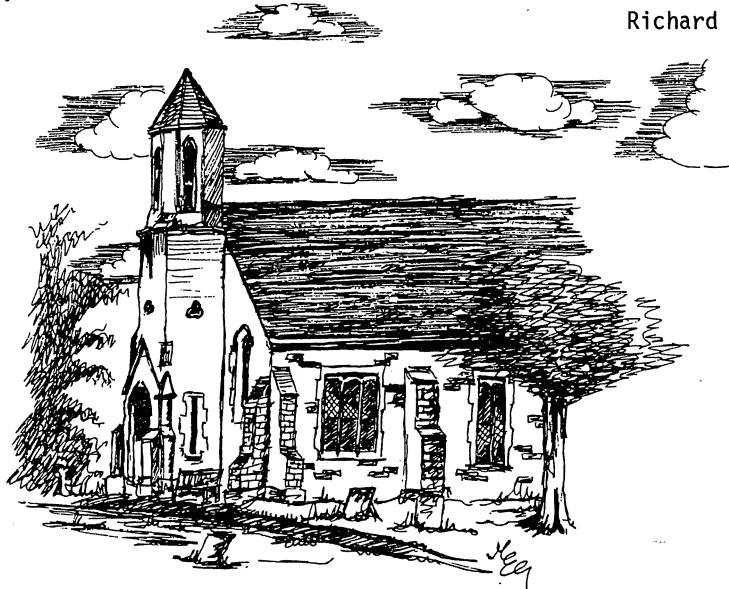
In the end the Grammar School were given an easy victory when the chef tripped (under highly un-suspicious circumstances!) with fifteen yards to go.

The chef apart, all the suffering of the day occurred in the women's race, in which many were injured falling badly on the road surface. Fiona Apsley made history here by winning the race, thereby giving Alcester Grammar School a double victory for the first time ever. Despite falling at the beginning / in the middle / at the end (I'm not sure which) she made a good comeback. An exceptional achievement, (badly described as beginner's luck), since she had not even tossed a pancake before the morning of the race!

Prizes were gratefully received by the winners, after which we returned to the School, some limping, some bruised, but on the whole triumphant.

We would all like to thank Mrs. Davis without whose scrumptious-looking pancakes it would have been impossible for most of us to have competed.

Richard McCarthy



GREAT ALNE PARISH CHURCH

SPEECH DAY

Speech Day was held on Friday 23rd March, under the Chairmanship of Mrs.M.J.Price, Chairman of the Governors, and the prizes and certificates were distributed by Alan Howarth,C.B.E., M.P. who sits as the member for our constituency. In his speech, Mr. Howarth raised many points concerning education in his well-received speech.

Mr.Turner's report centred on the School's development in the future and the problems associated with it, and drew attention to the increased activity and achievement in both sporting and academic fields.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr.D.B.Organ and seconded by Alastair Roeves.

PRISES AND AWARDS

FIRST YEAR : Kathryn Waters, Michael Hopkins, Lisa Bayliss,
Jonathan Elliott.

SECOND YEAR: Diane Hims, Sarah Harman, Sarah Hamblin, Nicholas Cole.

THIRD YEAR : Mark Hancox, Robert Sergeant, Fay Baldry, Adrian Escott,
Andrew Haywood.

FOURTH YEAR: Lawrence Jones, Karen Harman, Rachael Haines,
Kathryn Howell.

FIFTH YEAR : Madeleine Gauntlett, Christos Christou, Fiona Apsley,
Matthew Probert.

LOWER SIXTH: Alastair Roeves, Mark Foster, Claire Linfoot,
Victor Christou, Peter Ratcliffe, Mark Evans.

UPPER SIXTH: ENGLISH (Audrey Webley Prize) - Philip Garrattley,
Catherine Lewis; FRENCH - Dawn Coomber; HISTORY -
Tracey Cox; GERMAN - Diane Cregeen; GEOGRAPHY (Ernest
Walker Prize) - Sarah Miller, Karen Pinfield;
ECONOMICS - Philip Wright, Tracey Treadgold;
MATHEMATICS - Peter Hartland; PHYSICS - Jonathan
Cartledge; CHEMISTRY - Peter Hartland, Stuart Cuffe;
BIOLOGY - Sarah Longstaff; SIXTH FORM PROGRESS AWARDS -
Lorraine Buglass, Brandon Ransley.

SPECIAL PRIZES: SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL - Mair Hughes, Stephen Shirley,
Lucinda Dale, John Matthews; THE SIMON HANCOX MEMORIAL
PRIZE - Victoria McCarthy; BELL CUP FOR MATHEMATICS -
Peter Ratcliffe; MASON CUP (best Ordinary Level results)
Madeleine Gauntlett, Christos Christou; SPENCER CUP
(best Advanced Level results) - Peter Hartland.

Did you know ?

.... since 1923 it has been illegal to smoke a pipe in Sheffield during the hours of darkness.

.... every year the average Bavarian drinks enough lager to fill three Olympic-sized swimming pools.

.... the average Bavarian lavatory attendant earns more money than a British nuclear research scientist.

ROOTS

This year the School returned to straight drama rather than opera with a production of an edited version of 'Roots' by Arnold Wesker.

Several auditions were held in the Autumn Term and parts were hard fought for. Eventually nine budding Thespians were chosen, and rehearsals started in December to ready the cast for the first performance in early April.

Week by week each 'act' would religiously stay after school for several hours until finally after many threats from Mr. Green and Miss Bywater the lines were eventually learned (by mid-March).

Then came the dress rehearsal, the first taste of lipstick for most of the boys, and next the climax of the whole four months - the dreaded first night. Stage nerves were rife, especially from the girls who had to sing, and scripts were read hurriedly in the final few minutes before each entrance.

In the event all went remarkably well; the three day run played to a select but responsive audience. Karon Woodward as Beattie (the lead) coped well with her long speeches and she was ably supported by Fiona Apsley as Mrs. Bryant (her mother) and Kate Newey as Jenny (her sister). Sarah Harris, Richard McCarthy, Alastair Roeves, Thomas Holmes and James Couchman all turned in first class complementary performances.

Our thanks must be extended to the numerous back-stage crew without whose help the whole thing could never have taken place: in particular to Leila Khan, Jane Moulson, Carole Retter, Rachel Sawtell and Caroline Stern who succeeded in imposing order on a veritable mountain of props; John Ward and Anthony Knight who nightly performed miracles of sound and light respectively; the stage crew who transformed the scenes and the make-up team who transformed the players; and last but not least Vicki McCarthy who prompted almost continuously at the beginning and rather less so as rehearsals progressed.

Among the staff, Mr. Maund and Mr. Dickinson displayed particular ingenuity in the construction of the set, and thanks must also go to Mrs. Davis for supervising costumes, Mr. Sparkes and his team for painting the set and Mrs. Matthews for organising the business side. Most of all though we must thank Miss Bywater and Mr. Green who gave so much time and effort to making our acting bearable.

David Holloway (Poppy Bryant)

Did you know ?

.... statistical analyses show that on average, a Dutchman's left leg is four inches longer than his right leg.

.... in 1928, Adolf Hitler represented Germany at the world figure skating championships in Rome.

.... the Libyan national anthem is sung to the same tune as 'My Old Man's a Dustman'.

.... if the entire population of the Earth faced East and coughed simultaneously, the planet would be knocked approximately three thousand miles out of its orbit.

SIXTH FORM RAG WEEK

An amazing success is the only way to describe the week, when you consider that we actually started planning the activities a whole four weeks before the event!

Many of the Staff and Upper 6th competed in a tiddlywink contest in which they had to tiddle their winks, (or wink their tiddles), around an obstacle course, this feat requiring much skill and dexterity. The eventual winner was Nick Harris who tiddled his way to success in a very close final against Mr. Maund.

During the Week many celebrities (i.e. Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputies and Prefects) 'volunteered' to sit in the quad during break and lunch-time and have buckets of water thrown over them.

A treasure hunt sent the 1st and 2nd years racing round the School looking for clues and 'treasure'. The annual three-legged fancy dress football match between the Upper and Lower 6th was included in the Week's activities.

Two events brought this amazing week to a close; the Rag Ball at Aston Cantlow Village Hall was a great success on the final Saturday night and all too early the next morning there was a sponsored bed-push, but that's another story

And it did all raise a lot of money for charity as well as being a lot of fun!

THE GREAT BED-PUSH

It was a Sunday late in April and the population of Alcester was treated to a bemusing sight of the Alcester Grammar School Sixth Form gathering en masse in apparel better suited to the bedroom, or may be even the local asylum, than the streets of Alcester. This matter was clinched by the arrival of M. Probert in a nurse's outfit complete with black stockings, and everyone decided that we ought to be locked up.

Of course it was all for charity, well it had to be - nobody does this sort of thing normally do they? The charities involved were The Alcester Hospital Dayroom Fund and The Project Trust. Having previously examined the beds involved, the Lower 6th donated to the Upper 6th a bed suited to their ability - a decrepit one.

We set off by 10.00 and managed to stop at every public house between Alcester and Stratford, on the pretence of collecting for charity. Several drivers also stopped on our way and relieved themselves . . . of troublesome loose change which we gratefully accepted. As everyone knows, half-way to Stratford is a mountain called Red Hill and the Lower 6th, in an attempt to prove their maturity, ascended it at a run. Or may be it was the fact that 'The Stag' stood at the summit.

We finally entered Stratford at 13.00 and in a desperate attempt to halt the procession and save the general public from further humiliation, the foreleg of the Upper 6th bed gave way, and upholding a 2000 year old tradition they picked up their bed and walked. After circling Stratford twice we arrived at the hospital, deposited the damaged beds and departed rapidly.

Overall, the bed push raised £410 which was split between Alcester Hospital and The Project Trust. The hospital received a stereo Hi-Fi system and a cheque for £80; the balance was donated to The Project Trust who are to sponsor Lucy Matthews and her work in the Sudan next year.

Glenn Anderson

SUMMER TERM

The Summer Term brought with it some sizzling weather and the dreaded exams. Those who had received a penfriend earlier in the year now visited Le Loreaux-Bottereau to stay with their host families, and a party went to Wuppertal as usual. Marle Hall was again visited by the Lower 6th biologists for their field course.

In July the Alcester Victoria Youth Band gave a concert at the School to raise money to send Lucy Matthews to the Sudan with the Project Trust; it was a stunning success. The Lower 6th geographers, under Mr. Shearn's surveillance, descended on a Youth Hostel in Wales for their field course in the Cadair Idris area. The summer concert was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Sports Day was blessed with fine weather; Mrs. Lewis presented the trophies and Spencer won the sports contest and were House Champions as well.

The final assembly, always a slightly sad occasion for those leaving the School, was no exception as we said good-bye to Mr. and Mrs. Petherbridge and Mr. Dickinson and brought the year to an end with the traditional rendering of 'Jerusalem'.

ENCORE EN FRANCE

(Par le professeur de franglais et chimie avec some help from les professeurs de francais et avec apologies à Miles Kington)

JEUDI/VENDREDI Après être partie un peu derrière temps à cause d'un certain élève qui doit rester nameless, je drive comme Fangio dans ma Fiat et catch up les autres à Oxford. Dernier thé anglais. Pour moi et Madame Blanche dans nos cabins luxurieux, le voyage went très bien. Pauvre M. Percival n'a pas slept à cause du grand crowd de grenouilles noisy. No besoin de honky sacs. Premier thé francais. Il pleut. La Fiat aime bien driver à droite. Elle feels at home. Moi non! Deuxième thé francais. Premier 'croucher'. Porte de la toilette stuck. Lock picked par nameless. Quel relief!

SAMEDI Matin: lycée. Chimie en francais ... très difficile until j'ai réalisé que 'pays ashe' n'est pas un country mais 'ph'.
Après-midi: Nantes. Meet beaucoup d'élèves queuing devant nouvelle toilette très swish pour écouter Michaël Jackson et avoider la pluie. Beaucoup de thé francais. Michael Jackson tres bon, mais je préfère Handel.

SAMEDI SOIR et DIMANCHE Grand repas francais. Pas de thé. Je suffer des withdrawal symptoms. Il continue à pleuvoir.

LUNDI Trip à La Rochelle. Some soleil between the showers. Joue goal-keeper. Fais beaucoup de bons saves. Pas de ice-pack pour mes bruisures mais la mer est froid enough. Premier thé au passion fruit pour me warmer up.

MARDI Tour de Nantes sous la pluie. Premier thé éléphant brand. Visite une malade avec pox de poulet très itchy. Thé à la menthe; trop sugary. Préfère éléphant. Drive nameless chez lui. Get lost. Traverse La Loire six fois. M. Percival borrows Fiat. Très anxious!

MERCREDI M.Percival arrive en retard après deux tours du centre-ville.
Fiat pleased de me voir. Quelle surprise-il pleut! Visite vineyard!
Fiat not so pleased de me voir!!! Elèves très anxious. Il pleut toujours.
Grand repas avec collègues anglais et français. Madame Blanche très malade. Je crois qu'elle a overdone it, Elle ought to prendre un thé à l'Alka-Seltzer à cause de sa tummy qui est très queazy. Dommage - repas et vins très bons..

JEUDI Pluie. Excursion bien organisée parce qu'il ne pleut pas sur la coast. Une bonne journée.

VENDREDI Un peu showery. Visite l'école de riding. Ne sais pas si je préfère les chevaux (cheveux?) ou le lieutenant des gendarmes extrêmement handsome. Décide les chevaux; lieutenant est un peu bow-legged pour mon goût. Soir: Try les escargots. Still préfère thé éléphant. Another grand repas. Quitte restaurant - il pleut très hard.

SAMEDI Invitée à un wedding français. Seems plus ma tasse de thé than chimie française au lycée. On dit en France: S'il pleut le jour du wedding. Le couple will be très heureux'. Ils should be the happiest people en France! Soir: Autre grand repas avec mes collègues.

DIMANCHE Voyage sur la rivière Erdre. Told que c'est très beau, mais difficile à voir parce qu'il pleut chats et chiens. Discover que thé à la mandarine est encore better than éléphant. Journée très anxious. Fiat avec M.Percival.

LUNDI Très heureuse de revoir Fiat sans scratches. Nantes encore. Pense que je could become guide maintenant. Farewell tasse de thé quand il pleut (à la licorice ... should have stuck à éléphant).

MARDI Retour. At last il ne pleut pas. Nous sommes on the way home. Ah! beau temps et thé anglais!

VOCABULAIRE :

La Fiat - voiture rouge très belle, sans scratches.

Fangio - racing driver des fifties, even more handsome que le lieutenant.

Blanche - White

Éléphant - grand animal avec trunk, difficile à mettre dans une tasse.

Escargots - petites bêtes très slimy, facile à swallow sans goûter.

Michael Jackson - eau de musique française (préfère Handel).

Handel - chose qu'on presse pur changer eau et musique.

nameless - Clive Cowin

grand repas - commence à huit heures, finit à deux heures du matin ou equivalent.

'croucher' - vieille toilette française (quelquefois sans porte).

Attention aux pieds!

grenouilles - animaux avec grandes legs qui jump bien.

A SHORT WALK IN THE BLACK MOUNTAINS

One of the most welcome innovations of the past year has been the series of mountain walks arranged by Mr. Shearn in the Black Mountains and Brecon Beacons.

I went on one of the walks in the Black Mountains. The date was May 20th; the weather was not brilliant, nor was it dreadful. It rained a bit, was sunny from time to time, was often humid and sometimes windy. For a time it was even warm enough for the wearing of empire-building shorts; quite good for mountain weather really.

Our route lay along the crest of one of the huge whale-backed ridges above Crickhowell; it started with a tremendous heart-thumping climb, from the lane where we left the minibus, up the side of the ridge to the summit of Table Mountain. Here we paused for breath and admired the Usk valley stretched far below us in the haze.

The rest of the ridge-walk was somewhat easier; there was a lot of uphill work, but it was the sort which one is more able to take in one's stride without too much risk of apoplexy. The party was led by certain members of the Lower 6th who showed amazing skill in the use of map and compass. Along we went at a goodly rate, passing Pen Cerrig Calch on the way; I remembered eating my lunch in the shelter on the top on a freezing New Year's Day long ago. The views down either side of the mountains were superb - something which you always get if you walk along a lofty ridge. Luncheon was taken by general agreement on the flank of Pen Allt-mawr. Our enjoyment was marred only by the unwelcome attentions of the sheep who came to steal our sandwiches but we were entertained by the elaborate culinary efforts of Matthew Probert and Richard Brice. Stephen Hemmingway went to sleep.

Soon after this it started to rain while we were still on the ridge and we had the pleasure of walking in waterproofs. This is as near purgatory as I ever hope to get; one is assured that it is better to be bathed in warm perspiration than cold rain, but I for one am inclined to doubt it. Shortly afterwards we had to leave the ridge and drop down into the valley which would take us back to our starting point. As we did so the wind dropped and the humidity seemed to rise. My feet began to feel the effects of prolonged friction with my boots and supplies of drink began to run out. There was nothing for it but to keep slogging on to the end. We were all pleased to see the minibus when it came into view at last.

All in all it was a splendid mountain day. Not only was the walk superb and the scenery magnificent, but the company was first class as well. Not only that, but the conversation was of a very intellectual and rarified kind. Botany, zoology, geology, politics, history, agriculture, natural history, ornithology and geography were all discussed at great length and in considerable depth; it all reminded me of that peripatetic school in Ancient Greece. But nothing could compare with that exquisite moment when I removed my boots from my overheated feet and exposed them to the cool mountain air at the end of the walk. I cannot wait to take part in another expedition!

C.J.J.

THE GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

The initiation rites of the Lower 6th into the mysteries of geographical fieldwork were completed in time for them to write of their experiences during the summer holiday.

An early part of the ceremonies was a visit to the great open air amphitheatre of Llyn Cau, a cwm perched high on the side of Cadair Idris, (the seat of the giant, Idris). Here the spirit of the giant was invoked to explain the evolution of huge headwalls, grey-blue corrie waters and the humps of terminal moraines. Students grubbed about in these moraines, measuring orientations and dips of the glacially dumped stones, muttering to each other about the crazy whims of geographers. Roches moutonées were found to provide interesting climbing!

Descending to the valleys, U-shaped of course, we explored narrow tracks with vertiginous edges, gates to open and sheep to be herded. In the valleys students disembarked from the minibus for their baptism in Welsh mountain streams, where, welly-clad, they made wildly inaccurate measurements and grossly careless calculations which gave the River Dysinni a discharge exceeded only by the Amazon, Nile and Mississippi! The complexities of the development of the drainage system defeated not a few; some however, particularly those who hope to go on to higher things in the hierarchy of geographical mysteries, made light work of watershed breaching, high level wind gaps and Tertiary erosion surfaces.

The final full day saw enlightenment in the form of coastal geomorphology when the development of the spit at Fairbourne was examined. One member of the party departed by ferry in the afternoon to visit relatives in Barmouth, whilst the others played a test match on an uneven and unpredictable pitch. After a speedy visit to the National Centre for Alternative Technology (wind, water and solar energy, organic farming and community living) - a temple for the followers of 'The Good Life' on television, we hastened home.

My thanks go to Leila Khan for her excellent organisation of the food and to the ten gentlemen who cooked it (or burned it) and smiled for most of the weekend even when working all evening.

The members of the expedition were: Alan Baker, Kevin Brannan, Richard Catterall, Simon Crick, Clive Cowin, Iain King, Robert Knight, Timothy Shaw, David Holloway, Jonathan Smith and Leila Khan.

A.W.S.

THE SUMMER CONCERT

This year's concert was held on the evening of July 17th. The Junior Orchestra started the programme with a wide range of pieces, from 'The Slow Waltz' by Foster, to 'Somewhere Over The Rainbow'. This was followed by the first soloist, Michael Humphrey, at the pianoforte. His efforts were greatly appreciated by the large audience, as were those of all the other soloists, and he captured everyone's attention with his expressive performance of 'Cavatina'.

The Junior Ensemble played 'Minuet and Trio' by Lully and 'Landler' by Schubert. The next soloist was James Bradley playing the trumpet; he gave a very moving rendition of 'Misty'.

The Guitar Ensemble, a new feature of the Summer Concert, was well received with its performance of 'Where Peaceful Waters Flow', followed by the lively 'Ob - la - di, Ob - la - da' by Lennon and McCartney.

Lara Fenton then gave a very professional clarinet solo followed by the well-received Junior Choir with its excellent performances of the Lennon and McCartney songs 'Penny Lane', 'Windmills' and 'Top of the World'. They followed these with 'Close Every Door' from the Lloyd/Webber musical 'Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' and 'Memory' from the musical 'Cats' by the same writers.

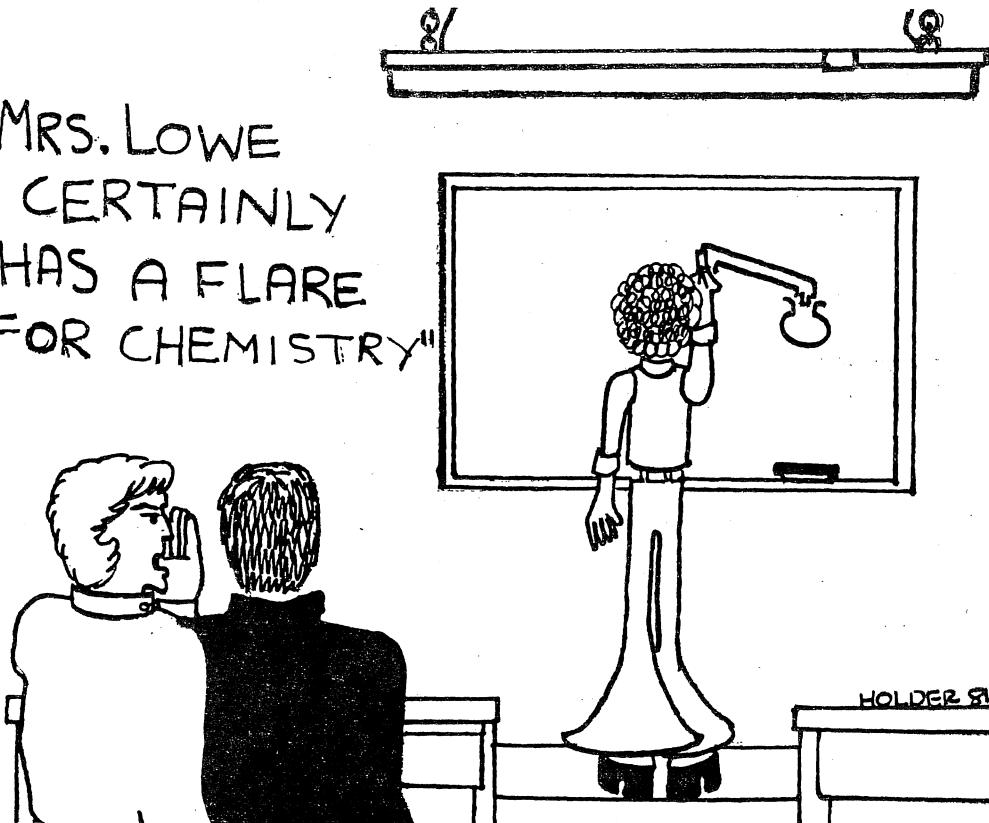
The juniors were followed by Anthony Knight singing negro spiritual songs. Anthony's very deep and rich voice earned him much admiration and applause from the audience. Next the Senior Choir sang three songs, and although much smaller than usual, gave very polished performances of 'Passing By' by Purcell, 'Love-shooting' and 'Chim - Chim - Cheree' in its usual harmonious style.

The final soloist was Philip Haigh. Anthony and Philip will be greatly missed from the choir and orchestra respectively at future concerts, after their long and loyal participation in the School's musical activities.

The Senior Orchestra finally brought the concert to a close playing 'With Cat-like Tread' from the Gilbert and Sullivan opera 'The Pirates of Penzance' followed by the negro spiritual 'The Battle of Jericho'.

Fiona Apsley

"MRS. LOWE
CERTAINLY
HAS A FLARE
FOR CHEMISTRY"



ATHLETIC SPORTS 1984

Sports Day was held this year on Wednesday 19th of July. Trophies were presented by Mrs Eileen Lewis. In the presentation of results given below, the names of the contestants are given in rank order, that is first, second then third. An asterisk (*) indicates that a new record was established.

JUNIOR GIRLS (1st and 2nd Forms)

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 1st year 100m | S.Gould(S); L.Hollands(W); N.Pearsall(S) |
| 2nd year 100m | H.Mumford*(N); S.Walker(S); L.Bayliss(N) |
| 200m | A.Bradley(S); S.Gould (S); K.Waters(W) |
| 800m | A.Bradley*(S); H.Tyler(N); L.Bayliss(N) |
| High Jump | H.Mumford(N); S.Gould(S); M.Wade(W) |
| Long Jump | H.Mumford(W); L.Larner(S); K.Speakman(N) |
| Discus | L.Bayliss*(N); S.Walker(S); H.Tyler(N) |
| Javelin | L.Bayliss(N); C.Pain(N); S.Walker(S) |
| Relay | Newport, Spencer, Wells |

INTERMEDIATE GIRLS (3rd and 4th Forms)

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 3rd year 100m | J.Shelton(S); R.Holden(N); J.McCauley(W) |
| 4th year 100m | E.Lediard*(N); T.Mitchell(W); K.Lewis(S) |
| 200m | E.Lediard(N); P.Dorrington(S); T.Mitchell (W) |
| 800m | S.Stevens*(N); R.Savage(S); N.Cooper(W) |
| High Jump | E.Lediard(N); J.Shelton(S); F.Gilroy(S) |
| Long Jump | J.Shelton(S); S.Stevens(N); J.Cummings(W) |
| Discus | R.Holden*(N); T.Hack(W); S.Pain(N) |
| Javelin | G.Ravenhall(S); S.Harper(N); K.Lewis(S) |
| Relay | Wells, Spencer, Newport |

SENIOR GIRLS (5th and 6th Forms)

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 100m | H.Wright(W); F.Apsley(S); L.Ratcliffe(W) |
| High Jump | K.Woodward(S) and T.Hughes(N) (tie); L.Ross(N) |
| Long Jump | L.Buffery(W); A.Copping(N); K.Harman(S) |
| Relay | Wells, Spencer, Newport |

JUNIOR BOYS

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1st year 100m | M.Sergeant(W); T.Stern(W); G.Knight(S) |
| 2nd year 100m | A.Austin(N); R.Turner(S); N.Moreland(N) |
| 200m | M.Sergeant(W); A.Austin(N); R.Turner(S) |
| 400m | C.Shelton(N); M.Poole(N); R.Harris(S) |
| 800m | T.Stern(W); M.Poole(N); C.Shelton(N) |
| High Jump | R.Turner(S); S.Godsall(W); M.Ashfield(S) |
| Long Jump | A.Austin(N); T.Stern(W); N.Moreland(N) |
| Discus | S.Godsall(W); R.Perry(N); I.Selby(N) |
| Javelin | I.Selby*(N); G.McPhail(S); D.Blackburn(W) |
| Relay | Wells, Newport, Spencer |

INTERMEDIATE BOYS

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 3rd year 100m | N.Cole(W); J.Parker(W); A.Mansell(S) |
| 4th year 100m | M.Farmer(S); A.Hedges(W); P.Lane(N) |
| 200m | M.Farmer(S); N.Cole(W); A.Marshall(S) |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 400m | D.Hurley(N); R.Russell(S); P.Charlton(W) |
| 800m | P.Charlton(W); R.Russell(S); P.Bradley(S) |
| 1500m | R.Lewis(W); P.Brice(N); P.Bradley(S) |
| 1200m Walk - Junior/Intermediate | : A.Hedges*(W); A.Marshall(S), I.Selby(N) |
| High Jump | P.Brice(N); N.Rutter(W); A.Mansell(S) |
| Long Jump | R.Russell(S); A.Hedges(W); N.Cole(W) |
| Shot | S.Mitchell(W); A.Mansell(S); D.Foster(N) |
| Discus | M.Farmer(S); J.Parker(W); P.Marklew(N) |
| Javelin | P.Lane(N); J.Parker(W); M.Harris(N) |
| Relay | Spencer, Newport, Aells |

SENIOR BOYS

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 100m | R.Nicholls(W); G.Farmer(S); A.Buxton(N) |
| 200m | R.McCarthy(S); R.Nicholls(W); L.Hurley(N) & G.Farmer(S) |
| 400m | C.Cowin*(S); L.Hurley(N); S.Bailey(S) |
| 800m | C.Cowin(S); S.Molloy(S); J.Guest(N) |
| 1500m | R.McCarthy(S); S.Molloy(S); J.Guest(N) |
| High Jump | S.Bailey(S); R.McCarthy(S); R.Brice(N) |
| Long Jump | C.Cowin(S); G.Farmer(S); J.Cuffe(W) |
| Shot | V.Christou(N); K.Hancocks(W); S.Sidaway(S) |
| Discus | A.Buxton(N); L.Hancocks(W); P.Teadale(N) |
| Javelin | V.Christou(N); M.Waldron(N); S.Bailey(S) |
| Relay | Spencer, Wells, Newport |

TUG OF WAR

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| Junior Boys | Newport, Wells, Spencer |
| Inter. Boys | Newport, Wells, Spencer |
| Senior Boys | A three way tie ! |

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Junior Victrix Ludorum Cup | : | Heather Mumford |
| Junior Victor Ludorum Cup | : | Matthew Farmer |
| Senior Victrix Ludorum Cup | : | Emma Lediard |
| Senior Victor Ludorum Cup | : | Clive Cowin |
| Girls' Sports Cup | : | Newport |
| Boys' Sports Cup | : | Spencer |
| Sports Shield | : | Spencer |

THE HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

Spencer won yet again this year with 194 points, beating Wells with 171; Newport came in third with 157.

A NEW TROPHY

We are pleased to be able to announce that the Headmaster has presented a new trophy to the School. To be known as 'The Turner Cup For Swimming', this handsome trophy will be awarded to the House which emerges victorious from the Junior Swimming Gala held in July each year. This year the cup was won by Newport.

BOYS' GAMES

ATHLETICS

The School achieved distinction in yet another sport this year - race walking! In the county championships, our team of junior girls came 2nd, the junior boys 3rd, the intermediate girls 2nd and the intermediate boys 3rd. As far as individuals are concerned, Vicki McCarthy came 3rd in her event and Paul Brice came 3rd in his.

A large number of AGS pupils were subsequently selected for the Warwickshire teams - Hayley Tyrer (Junior Girls), Kay Lewis, Vivien Evans and Vicki McCarthy (Inter Girls), and Andrew Marshall, Andrew Hedges and Paul Brice (Inter Boys). We look forward to great things from the race-walkers in future years.

We also achieved our customary distinction in 'traditional' athletics this year; a number of pupils were selected to represent South Warwickshire at the county championships. Richard McCarthy came 1st in the 3000 metres, and Clive Cowin 2nd in the 800. Andrew Marshall came first in the walk with Andrew Hedges 2nd. Matthew Farmer came 1st in the discus. Hayley Tyrer came 2nd in her walk. Stephen Molloy was chosen for the 800 metres and Josie McCauley for the long jump.

Finally a number of pupils were selected to represent Warwickshire itself - Matthew Farmer (discus) and Andrew Hedges, Andrew Marshall and Hayley Tyrer (race-walking).

TENNIS

The Under 15 team beat Henley (7-1). In the tournament for second year boys, S.Hollands beat A.Yates 6-4, 6-2 in the final.

Rachel Baker beat Stephanie Brewin in the final of the girls' singles contest; the score was 7-5, 4-6, 6-3. The same two were the champions of the senior doubles league; Blanche Surman and Nicola Spearing were second and Emma Lediard and Kay Lewis came third. In the junior singles contest Georgina Ravenhall defeated Susan Lindsay, 7-6, 6-3 and in the junior doubles Josie McCauley and Rachel Holden beat Susan Lindsay and Helen Wright.

RUGBY

A number of famous victories formed the highlights of the season, including a devastating defeat of North Bromsgrove High School, 34-0, away, and equally spectacular conquests of Woodrush and South Bromsgrove. These were all the work of the 1st XV, but the Under 15 side distinguished itself similarly with defeats of Stratford High School (48-4), Arrowvale and Abbey High School. The Under 14 team won only two of its matches, but did so in style with resounding defeats of Greville High School and Stratford High School. The Under 13 XV won one match of its three.

Results

| | Played | Won | Captain |
|--------|--------|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 1st XV | 12 | 5 | Vaughan Tanner (V.Capt.Keith Hancock) |
| U15 XV | 11 | 5 | Liam Hurley |
| U14 XV | 9 | 2 | Steven Wilkes |
| U13 XV | 3 | 1 | Neil Morland |

A number of players were selected for South Warwickshire - Matthew Farmer and Paul Brice for the Under 15 side, and Toby Lenehan, Steyen Mitchell, Adam Mansell and Robert Russell for the Under 14 XV.

Colours were awarded to David Laughlin, Stephen Molloy, Brian Hemming, Clive Cowin, Steven Bailey, David Holloway, Richard McCarthy and Richard Brice.

SOCCKER

The season saw a number of notable victories and steady sensible play by all the teams.

Gary Strain and Greg Mason were selected to play for Warwickshire, and Paul Bradley, Simon Hollands, Matthew Hunter, Paul Winsper and Stuart Godsall for South Warwickshire.

Colours were awarded to David Laughlin, Stephen Molloy, Mark Hamblin and Melvin Crane.

Results

| | Played | Won | Drawn | Captain |
|--------|--------|-----|-------|----------------|
| 1st XI | 8 | 3 | | Gary Strain |
| U16 XI | 1 | | | Marcus Carter |
| U15 XI | 7 | 2 | 2 | Paul Bradley |
| U14 XI | 6 | 1 | | Toby Lenehan |
| U13 XI | 6 | 3 | 1 | Matthew Hunter |

In the Under 14 Six-a-Side Tournament our A team reached the semi-finals and in the Eight-a-Side Tournament the Under 12 side, captained by Paul Winsper, played four matches, won one of them, and drew one.

BASKETBALL

The 1st V, captained by Robert Haring, won their match against Prince Henry's School, but were defeated (narrowly) by Aylesford - the score was 21-20. Our fifth year team fought Aylesford to an honourable draw at 11-11, and late in the Easter term the senior team achieved a narrow victory over Studley High School, with a score of 70-68.

BADMINTON

The sport continues to attract enthusiastic support throughout the School. In a match against Greville High School, victory went to our team of mixed third and fourth formers.

BOYS' SQUASH

Captained by Melvin Crane, our Sixth Form team defeated a team from Solihull Sixth Form College, but was beaten in turn by Warwick School. The scores were 5-0 and 0-5 respectively.

CROSS COUNTRY

Four meetings were held in the South Warwickshire Cross Country League in which our teams achieved some distinction. The first year boys' team came 4th, the mixed team of third and second year boys came 3rd and a team composed of fourth and fifth formers came 2nd. Our first year girls' team came 8th, and a mixed team drawn from second, third, fourth and fifth form girls came 2nd.

We likewise did well in the Home Friendly Match, when the first year boys came 3rd, the second year boys came 2nd, and the third/fourth year came 5th.

In the County Cross Country Championship our Senior Boys came 2nd, the Intermediate Boys 8th, and the Junior Boys 11th.

A large number of members of the School were selected to run for Warwickshire and South Warwickshire. Richard McCarthy, Clive Cowin, Steve Molloy, Andrew Barney, Andrew Thomson and Vicki McCarthy ran for the County, while Martin Sergeant and Michael Poole ran for South Warwickshire.

Colours were awarded to Vicki McCarthy.

CRICKET

The 1st XI played only one match this year, against Prince Henry's. Despite the captaincy of Martin Hedges, we were not victorious. The Under 15 XI, captained by Paul Brice, had more success, playing 5 matches and winning 3 of them. Princethorpe College were beaten by 7 wickets; Paul himself scored 28 not out. Matthew Farmer contributed 52 runs to the defeat of St. Benedict's and another 55 to the victory over Bidford, aided by 43 from Alan Stanley.

The Under 14 XI, with Jason Parker as captain, drew one of its matches - against the formidable competition provided by KES. Jason himself scored a handsome 39. Even a score of 31 from Stephen Mitchell failed to avert defeat in the match with Princethorpe.

Sad to relate, the Under 13 team, with S. Hollands as captain, was defeated in both its matches even though the captain scored a resounding 40 runs against St. Benedict's.

Finally the Under 12 XI won one of its three matches - the one with Bidford. Martin Ashfield scored 28 runs in this match. Gregory McPhail scored 10 against Princethorpe and Stuart Godsall 23 against KES.

Colours were awarded to Paul Brice.

GIRLS' GAMES

HOCKEY

The teams did not have quite such a successful season as last year but the standard of play has been generally very good - the 1st XI in particular played well and were never defeated by more than one goal, so that each match was a very close run thing.

| | Played | Won | Drawn |
|--------|--------|-----|-------|
| 1st XI | 9 | 3 | 3 |
| 2nd XI | 5 | 2 | |
| U16 XI | 1 | 1 | |
| U15 XI | 3 | | 2 |
| U14 XI | 4 | 1 | |
| U13 XI | 3 | 1 | 1 |

Full colours were awarded again to Rachel Baker, Lucy Matthews, Anna Thomson, Lindsey Portman, Phillipa Winter and Julie Hawkes. Colours were awarded for the first time to Stephanie Brewin, Fiona Apsley, Lisa Buffery and Karen Harman; half colours were awarded to Teresa Jackson, Helen Archer, Sarah Newey and Jacqueline Bailey.

THE SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY

A hum of expectation ran through the contestants like a current of electricity as they waited with just a couple of minutes to go. The culmination of a year's training was upon them. A year of pain and suffering; of sacrifice and self-discipline; of determination and true dedication to the art of putting one foot in front of the other. It would all be worth it for the honour and splendour of the title "A.G.S. Cross-Country Champion, 1984".

A minute now remained, and the starter drew the racers to the line, where they jostled for position, each bold breast concealing a madly thudding heart. The adrenalin pumping through each vein and artery began to steam and boil - a quick fuse ready to ignite at the slightest provocation.

The starter raised his gun. Absolute silence reigned as inside each hand-picked volunteer every nerve - every fibre of being drew taut, stretched to breaking point and throbbed in keen anticipation of the next moment.

The pistol cracked - Mr. Cowell muttered ... something ... under his breath and fired an alternative firepiece - the race was on.

The runners exploded into motion, burning off nervous energy and unleashing the full fury of their power around the first bend of the course, while the very ground itself trembled beneath their fearsome onslaught. On and on they thundered, strength and vitality flowing freely through every perfect machination of their lithe bodies.

After the first lap of the top field, the blazing sun began to make things tough. Many of the A.G.S. athletes were unprepared for the fierce heat, having trained so extensively through the freezing winter nights, and the weak began to fall by the wayside. But the strong forged ahead, bringing into play the supercooling functions of their intensely conditioned anatomies, that is they sweated.

Leaving the top field, the runners flashed past the excited cries of encouragement shouted by those course markers stationed beside the river. Youthful throats spurred them on over the bridge and down onto the hard baked earth of the cinder track.

By now the leaders were establishing themselves, slowly but relentlessly drawing ahead with each purposeful stride. Further and further they pushed themselves, now perspiring, really quite freely, and beginning to struggle as the temperature soared.

Now the power of the mind came to the fore, as each runner grappled with their own mental barrier for supremacy and masterdom of the body.

Eventually the two frontrunners returned to the river, seeking its balm and refreshing touch to renew the vigour of their weary limbs. Plunging through the spray, they staggered to the far bank, momentarily numbed by the shock of the icy water. Thankful however, for the respite from the oppressive heat, they clambered up the precipitous face of the far bank and sped on their way to the end of the race - only a quarter of a mile distant.

It was a magnificent finish. Reeling drunkenly the two leaders stumbled through the gate of the bottom field to the tumultuous roar of the assembled throng.

The multitude of spectators released their bottled-up excitement by hopping from one foot to another and bellowing wildly.

And suddenly life sprang back into the movements of the two contenders, who, becoming intoxicated with the rising hysteria of the crowd, forgot their exhaustion and pitched forward in a last, mad, heart-bursting dash for the line.

With only thirty paces to go, the second runner drew level with the first. The assembly screamed louder and louder, its raw energy communicating itself to the athletes, giving sustenance to their returned strength, and raising them to greater and greater heights of excellence.

Now the second runner edged ahead (fuelled no doubt by that extra chip at lunchtime) pursued doggedly by the previous leader who simply refused to give up.

They gave everything they had in the dying seconds, until the new leader, amidst the cheers of the school, breasted the line victorious - the race, though by no means over for the other runners, had been won.

Finally, in accordance with the Alcester Grammar School tradition, the competitors proved, (as did all the others that ran), to be just as sporting after the event as during it, by shaking hands.

Meanwhile the cheering and applause broke out afresh for the third finisher in the great Senior Girls Cross Country. The Senior Boys ran well too, with Jonathan Guest, (who now has to buy an extra school mag.), finishing strongly in fifth place.

The Junior races, held earlier in the day, were run, as always, with great enthusiasm. Some of the Juniors, giving their somewhat divided opinions described the races as

'Awful...horrible...a form of physical torture...painful...not worth doing again...tiring...not bad...all right I suppose...wet going through the river...different...yes. Well-umm...interesting - in a strained sort of way...a good skive...terrific...superb, because I came eleventh... fantastic...and even thrilling.'

Most enjoyed the river, and a few requested that it should be forded on more than one occasion. Also it should be noted that nearly all the Juniors, (and I am sure that this feeling is echoed farther up the school), expressed a desire for Mr.Cowell and Mrs. Bonham to have to run. Now that the girls' running is in its 8th year, will we see an A.G.S. Staff entry for next year's Cross Country?

The numbers pressed into running this year were as follows:

| | |
|--------------|----|
| Junior Girls | 39 |
| Junior Boys | 54 |
| Senior Girls | 47 |
| Senior Boys | 86 |

Results:

Junior Girls: Spencer 1st, Wells 2nd, Newport 3rd
Individual Results: 1st Heather Mumford, 2nd Elizabeth Cox,
3rd Lisa Bayliss.
Junior Boys: Wells 1st, Newport 2nd, Spencer 3rd.
Individual Results: 1st Matthew Hunter, 2nd Chris Shelton,
3rd Thomas Stern.
Senior Girls: Spencer 1st, Newport 2nd, Wells 3rd.
Individual Results: 1st Vicky McCarthy, 2nd Fiona Apsley,
3rd Rosanne Daggett.
Senior Boys: Wells 1st, Spencer 2nd, Newport 3rd.

Individual Results: 1st Richard McCarthy, 2nd Clive Cowin,

3rd Andrew Barney.

Overall Result:

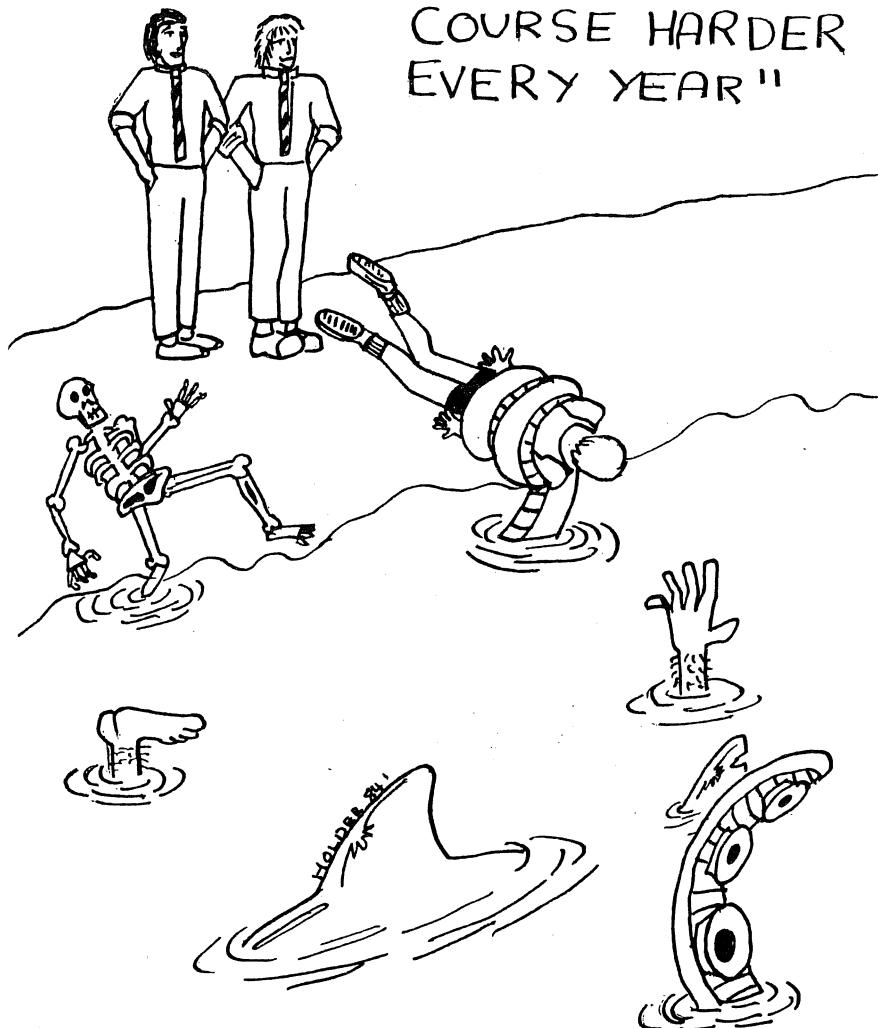
1st Wells (1045 points)

2nd Spencer (1104 points)

3rd Newport (1295 points)

Richard McCarthy

"MR.COWELL MAKES
THE CROSS-COUNTRY
COURSE HARDER
EVERY YEAR"



PREFECTS 1984-85

HEAD BOY : Richard McCarthy
HEAD GIRL : Fiona Apsley
DEPUTIES : David Holloway and Leila Khan

All members of the Lower Sixth undertook prefectorial duties from the beginning of the Spring Term 1984.

THE SIXTH FORM COUNCIL

An innovation this year has been the formation of the 6th Form Council - the brainchild of the Deputy Head, Mr. Shearn.

The Council is a group of 11 pupils and 3 teachers and its function is to discuss all matters relating to the 6th Form and its position in the School. Topics for discussion might range from smoking to the decor of the common room; from the lack of respect from the junior pupils to the arrangements for making drinks at break and lunchtime.

Decision making is by a vote of the Council, but the constitution provides, in certain circumstances, for the voting to be thrown open to the whole of the 6th Form.

Various sound ideas have already been proposed; they include the location of a new notice board for information about careers, and ways of instilling more respect for the senior members of the School among the juniors. These proposals are to be referred to the Headmaster who has the final jurisdiction over their implementation.

As well as being functional in the way described, the Council has a sound educational purpose behind it, for it gives its members experience in the working of committees and the interactions of differing personalities. Such experience should be invaluable in later life.

David Holloway



PROJECT TRUST

With time running out in the security of Alcester Grammar School and the dubious delights of further education in store, I decided several months ago that I really needed a year off. I applied to an organisation called Project Trust, a registered charity which transports innocent and enthusiastic school-leavers to developing Third World countries in order to gain some understanding of less privileged communities, and to provide a certain amount of social aid.

As Project Trust has to be very careful about the students it sends out, especially where international relations are at stake, the selection procedure is fairly rigorous. After a preliminary interview I was sent along with eleven other prospective volunteers to a ridiculously remote, cold and barren island off the Scottish coast. Despite the organisers' disappointment at the calmness of the weather (their job is made so much easier if at least half the volunteers get swept overboard when crossing to the island), we were greeted warmly and spent the next week yomping round the island after Project's Director, Major Nicholas MacClean-Bristol; manually ploughing fields, digging up gardens; trying to learn Scottish Reel Dancing (and failing miserably); and generally learning about the island's history.

About a week after returning home and before my blisters had healed I heard from Project - I had been selected for a teaching job 'somewhere in Africa'. A bit later on this was narrowed down to 'somewhere in Northern Sudan', and my preparations began in earnest. The Sudan is geographically very exciting. It is just beneath Egypt, shares a border with Gadaffi's Libya, on the left there is Chad, where all those French soldiers are, at the bottom there is Uganda, on the right is famine-stricken Ethiopia, to which thousands of refugees flee annually, (heading for Sudan), and a bit further to the right lie Iran and Iraq. The top bit is mostly desert, the bottom mostly in turmoil, thanks to the many refugees and the 'civil-warring' of religious factions. It is the largest country in Africa, and also the poorest, with poor communications, an unreliable legal system, (although a recent concession has seen proper surgeons carrying out limb amputations, which must be a good thing), little or no petrol, frequent famines and diseases, little electricity and, (worst of all), no national football team to speak of.

Of course, Project Trust prepares its volunteers thoroughly before throwing them such an exciting challenge. At a training course up in Scotland in July, I was given a comprehensive list of all the diseases I am likely to catch, as well as useful snippets of information about how to deal with scorpions and what to do when I lose my airline ticket home. We also had several lectures on teaching - a sort of 'All You Need to Know About Teaching' in two days - quite fair really. All of this left us feeling totally incompetent, especially when told that we might end up teaching French, Art, Games and Drama as well as English, and that the classes might just number sixty to seventy students. The favourite adjective of the week was 'grim'.

The other problem was money. One of the Project's requirements is that each volunteer raises £1,250 towards his expenses of living abroad - quite a formidable task but one which, with the goodwill and support of many people, I have now completed. It really was heartwarming to see how many would give up time and money when offered the chance of

getting rid of me for a year - I received large amounts from the Great Sixth Form Bed-Push, (which I unfortunately missed, being in hospital as a direct and unfortunate consequence of the aforementioned Scottish Reel Dancing), and from various sources around Alcester. I also took on a horrendous part-time job at a hotel in Stratford to raise some more cash, but hastily retired just after the coffee machine broke down and the toaster caught fire

Obviously I am very much looking forward to spending my year in the Sudan - I see it as a great challenge and feel very privileged to be able to take it. I would like to thank everyone who has helped or supported me over the past few months and I'll see you all next year. Hopefully.

Lucy Matthews

FIRST IMPRESSIONS—AGS

There was something disturbing about my visit to Alcester on the day following my appointment. Barely fifteen hours after that moment I stood at the counter of a hopeful estate agent, giving name and address. 'Ah yes!' he exclaimed, 'you must be the new chap at the Grammar School.' I had heard of the bush telegraph and grapevine before, but it seemed that in Alcester the tom-toms beat even in the depths of the night. Retreating home I wondered how much more was already known Fortunately the fears which I had begun to entertain were soon dissolved when it became clear that the speed of travel of information in the town was directly proportional to the warmth of welcome offered; help and advice poured in; people we met in Alcester really did want us to feel at home.

By the time the term started in September, the School had begun to be a part of my daily life; living opposite the main entrance I could see it from the lounge window, the bedroom window and the garage door. Every visitor to the front door appeared against a backdrop of AGS! The backdrop was rapidly changing: skips became piled high with the debris of seventy years as demolition went on, bike sheds were retired, walls converted to rubble. Even the seasonal home of a pair of spotted fly-catchers was sacked and removed as the bricks fell. A beautiful tree, older perhaps than the school, was cut down in a tiny fraction of its life-time, to make way for the bizarre shape of the Sixth Form common room.

Yet of my first impression much remained; ivy-clad walls facing leaning Scots Pines and a scrawny laurel hedge; temporary buildings propped up for another few years; a verandah fit for the British Raj, from which to survey the natives in their hockey-rugby rituals; an over-hanging dining room like some royal box dominating our tarmac Wimbledon; the hybrid stage/eating area for enacting lunch; a herd of terrapins, crouching beneath the trees, their feet slouching in the mud; scarred canoes, rafted together in a heap, hinting perhaps at past adventures and future launches - rather as, I suspect, AGS, in its bricks and mortar, hides stories I shall never know and sets the stage for new characters to flourish and pass on.

A.W.S.

ALMOST NO COMMENT

'The Manchester gentlemen believed that as soon as Arkwright's patent expired, so many cotton mills would be excreted and so much cotton spun that hands could never be found to weave it.' - From a 4th Form exam. answer in History.

Someone in the 2nd Form believed the centre point of Paris to be 'The Place de La Toilette', according to what Mr. Petherbridge read on one of their examination scripts.

Our present Queen was variously described as having 'Up-ended, seduced or ascended' her predecessor, King George the Sixth, when the 2nd Form (again!) were asked to supply one word to replace the phrase 'came after', in their English examination.

One of the books turned out of the Library in Mr. Woodcock's great purge was entitled 'Humour and Humanism in Chemistry'. Being convinced that neither of these things exist in Chemistry, and the book must therefore be an imposter, curiosity drove me to dip into its pages. The author quotes Leo Africanus, writing circa 1500 as follows:-

'Chemists are a most stupid set of men, who contaminate themselves with sulphur and other horrible stinks.' and then goes on to show that this was not an isolated view by quoting G. Chaucer (of Canterbury fame) writing about a century earlier:-

And evermore, wher ever they be gone,
Men may know them by smelling of bremstoon;
For all the world they stynken as a goat,
Their savour is so rammysh and so hot,
That though a man from them a mylē be,
The savour will infect him, trustē me.

Things have changed a great deal since those days of course!

Returning to the subject of exam. questions, I imagine that many of you, like me, would not know what 'Sgraffito' was. Neither did a certain A. Stanley, but what he lacked in knowledge, he made up for in wit by giving the answer 'Sthis sis sa sform sof scandalism sfound sin spublic slavatories'. Those who want to know the real answer should apply in writing to Mr. Maund, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope and a Postal Order for £5.00 only.

What, I wonder, could a member of the 3rd Form have been thinking of who, when asked to explain how house flies were able to feed, since they lack mandibles, stated that 'They use their tongues to first stun their prey, then they coil their tongues around it and consume it.'? Was it a cow or a chameleon?

C.J.J.

Did you know ?

..... The average citizen of the United Kingdom spends more money on tinned cat food in twelve months than the Government of Mauritius does on national defence.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM CARGILL AND THE SETTLEMENT OF NEW ZEALAND

This year, 1984, marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of an accomplished soldier and religious pioneer - Captain William Cargill, my great, great, great, grandfather.

Captain Cargill was born in Scotland in 1784. He joined the army as a young man and soon became a proficient soldier in the 74th Highlanders. He fought with the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsular Wars, being mentioned in dispatches no fewer than five times. While in Portugal during the war he met his wife Mary, a prominent English actress. Their married life was rather unusual for the times, in that whereas most soldiers left their wives at home in England, William took Mary and his three eldest children everywhere with him. They had a total of 17 children of whom 11 survived to adulthood, a reflection of the high infant mortality rate present in those times.

In 1847, the Scottish Presbyterian Church supported a plan to plant a settlement on the South Island of New Zealand. Since Captain Cargill was both a Presbyterian and an adventurous person, he secured places for himself and his whole family on the ship - the 'Phillip Lang' - which was to take the settlers to their new home. It was a great undertaking for a man who was 63 years old at the time of the voyage.

After sailing for 102 days, they reached New Zealand. The same trip is now done in 1½ days by air! They landed at Dunedin on the South Island and a second ship, the 'John Wycklyffe' arrived several days later. The exact spot where they landed is marked out by a plaque which is about a mile from the present beach - a result of subsequent land reclamation.

Following their landing, Captain Cargill was elected as the first Superintendent of Otago, sat in the first Parliament, and had the town of Invercargill named after him. Our family remained in New Zealand until the First World War, when my grandfather was invalidated out of the army and settled in Hampshire.

The main celebrations of Captain Cargill's bicentenary took place in Dunedin and were attended by people from all over the world, including myself and my parents. About 200 descendants, and descendants through marriage were present, representing most branches of the family.

As well as being present in Dunedin, we all toured New Zealand and saw buildings and districts associated with the Captain, but unfortunately Invercargill had been seriously damaged by flooding and could not easily be reached. The final evening in New Zealand ended in a striking way with a lone piper on the battlements of a castle.

The whole area around Dunedin rather resembles Scotland, being covered in gorse - New Zealand itself in fact looks like a slice of Great Britain at the other end of the world.

The celebrations continued in London with a dinner at the House of Commons which was attended by about 100 descendants, mostly from this country.

It seemed very fitting for this remarkable man to be remembered by his family in this way.

Martin Bartlett

FORTY YEARS ON

At a time when the School is looking forward to a new phase of building and expansion of facilities, it may be of interest to look back at the conditions that prevailed when I joined the staff in the immediate post-war period.

Present pupils would find it difficult to imagine the whole school assembled in the library, which at that time served as both hall and gymnasium. Fainting was not an uncommon occurrence and the extraction of the victim was extremely difficult. In order to preserve the floor a cover had to be rolled out each morning and laboriously rolled back again before P.E. lessons could start. The present Room 4 served as the Library and access had to be on a form rota basis.

The girls' uniform had survived the war intact and was both expensive and very smart. That of the boys however, was very rudimentary, consisting only of a cap and tie. (They did wear a few other things as well of course!)

Clothing coupons were still in force and P.E. lessons involved the issuing of gym shoes, which could not be purchased by individuals, from wire cages at the bottom of the stairs. It was with relief that I was able to sell off our stock within a year or so!

There were two playing fields, the boys' field, now occupied by new buildings and the tennis courts, and surrounded by the lime trees and the girls' field beyond the veranda. In the soccer season the former quickly became a sea of mud and marking lines would have been impossible but for supplies of sawdust begged from the cabinet works across the road.

With regard to cricket I think the boys were better off than at present, in spite of the new artificial wicket. School matches were played in Ragley Park on well-prepared wickets, which were the envy of visiting teams.

Sports Day on the new field with its vast expanse has never captured the stadium-like atmosphere of the event held on the old soccer field, barely long enough for the 100 yard sprints. Novelty events, interspersed between the purely athletic ones, were very popular and attracted large entries, involving heats. Their reappearance recently seems to be welcome. It was some years before girls were allowed to take part in athletics, their efforts being confined to the Arts and Craft display held on the same day.

We have for some years now become accustomed to 'terrapin' classrooms. They appear little better than the World War I vintage army huts which stood near the D.S. room. Each was heated by a pair of stoves, one coke-fired and one coal-fired. This reminds me that in those days the caretaker, who was also the one and only groundsman, had to light a dozen or more fires during the winter. The appointment of a form stoker was a very important matter, there being considerable rivalry. The aim was to make the stoves glow red! Needless to say, this could be overdone and on one occasion certainly was! I remember being called to an empty hut, by someone teaching next door, to find flames rapidly creeping along the wooden floorboards. A fire extinguisher did its job, the huts were saved and I was blamed for the long delay in their replacement.

I was very sceptical at first of the house system. At that time

houses were called 'sides' with strange sounding names! No staff were attached to houses and each was run entirely by its Captains. This could not possibly work, I thought, but soon found that it did work remarkably well.

Staging school plays without a hall was a nightmare. I remember, on one occasion, a play had to be switched at the dress rehearsal stage from the Youth Hut in School Road to the Entaco Hall in Studley. Even Speech Day was held in the local cinema in the High Street. The proprietor, unless restrained, was wont to entertain the company with the popular 'hits' of the day.

Final assemblies were quite an ordeal for a newcomer, the whole school filing past the staff and shaking hands with each and every one! The 'handshake', a relic from the days when the school was very small, was not to survive for very long.

There have been many changes during my time at A.G.S. but the rate of change has never been faster than at present. If there is a moral to be drawn from these few reflections, it is perhaps that one should count one's blessings and not expect instant satisfaction. I came with the intention of staying two or three years and here I am forty years on - in the words of the old school song.

On the eve of our retirement my wife and I wish the school a future filled with happiness and success and, although no longer actively involved, we shall continue to watch developments with great interest.

F.W.P.



HASELOR PARISH CHURCH

AN INCOMPLETE GUIDE TO STUDENT LIFE

There is no way in which the whole spectrum of student life can be considered within the space of a few hundred words, but I feel that there are certain vital items of information which should prove invaluable to anyone aspiring to join the ranks of the great unwashed. Not the obvious old-hat phrases that you have heard countless times before - 'Balance work with play etc.' - but information which could only possibly come from the inside. Until I became a student, for example, I never fully appreciated the true value of soft toilet paper, something no student should be without.

Whatever course you enrol for, there is one thing that you need to learn as quickly as possible - how to manage money. Despite popular belief that you can live quite happily on a student grant and still afford life's little luxuries such as the aforementioned toilet paper, the occasional packet of jelly babies, a new packet of razor blades or a Sunday paper, it is not easily done. Money management is something which you will have brought down to a fine art by the third term, but be warned, it does take practice. The following tips should prove useful: always forget your wallet when you go to the pub, never take your credit card shopping, always go to someone else's room for coffee, avoid getting arrested while busking, never turn down anything free and be nice to the right people.

Perhaps a note on accommodation would not be amiss. If you are in Hall there is no problem. Make friends with the porters, be nice to the Bursar and Warden, try not to be seen returning home drunk too often and try to find the right room at night - well occasionally anyway. Also try to avoid people with very long hair and John Lennon glasses who play electric guitars; they have peculiar habits, smoke funny cigarettes and are often noisy. Digs I do not know a lot about; the delights of this particular sphere of student life await me next year. However, I have sought advice on the subject which I now pass on to you: do not hang teabags in the airing cupboard to dry (it's too hot in there), wash the dishes at least once a week, do not buy a cat, and smile at the landlady.

Finally a note on the social aspects of student life. The first thing to remember is not to join too many clubs and societies at the Society Fair; when you have to attend eight meetings a week the glamour rapidly fades and you may find that the Advanced Origami Society is not exactly your cup of tea after all. Do not miss Rag Week when everybody gets very merry, does silly things, and tends to fall over a lot, the only difference from normal being that this time it's all in a good cause. There are also the pubs, nightclubs and concerts to keep you interested all year round, but remember not to wear a medallion - it's bad for the image.

A final thought - why do we do it? This occurred to me as I crawled along a 2 foot high, 500 yard long, mine tunnel, which was 6 inches deep in water, while on a local field trip. Then it suddenly occurred to me - it's fun! Oh yes, and there is the degree.

Steve Cowell (1980-82,
at present at Sheffield Poly)

A STRANGER TO AMBITION

In 1895, the headmaster of Newport's Free School, as the Grammar School was then known, was the Reverend John James Dyson. He was a graduate of the University of Cambridge where he obtained a first in Classics and had been appointed to the headship of Newport's School in 1889, in succession to Mr. Gegg. The school premises had needed 'fumigation' after the departure of Mr. Gegg and his family.

The best way to convey an impression of the school under Mr. Dyson is to quote from the report of the Bryce Commission of Inquiry into Secondary Education, which was published in 1895:

'I know of no endowed school actually in Warwickshire to which the term decay can now be rightly applied, except perhaps the school at Alcester, and even there the process of restoration has begun. Less than a year ago, the school had sunk to ten boys, five of whom had given notice of leaving, and the education was nil. The reasons given me for this state of things were amply sufficient to account for it. I was informed that the then headmaster, a first class classic and clergyman, had made it his business to do nothing. When he was first appointed, the governors, being sanguine that the new master would make Alcester into a great school, had spent part of their scanty endowment capital (the income was only £120 per year) upon dormitories. The headmaster, according to arrangement, and to keep up appearances, advertised for boarders, but when any came he declined them. Eight free scholars used at that time to be admitted from the Alcester elementary schools, and for these the headmaster received from the endowment £4 a head per year. But they were an inconvenient addition, if not to his responsibilities, at any rate to his numbers, and by making fun of them before the school as charity boys, he succeeded in driving them away, and in establishing the tradition in Alcester that no elementary school boys were ever to pass on to the Grammar School. When tired of sitting idly with his boys in the smaller and worse ventilated schoolroom, (which he preferred), he would turn the key upon them, and go off for a stroll across the fields. The only work ever set was poetry to learn by heart, but it was never asked for, and one of the boys told me that he had never learned it, or anything. When asked on one occasion how it was he did not put more energy into the school, the headmaster is said to have replied, 'My dear sir, ambition and I have long been strangers'. The only duty which he seems to have satisfactorily performed was to live in the schoolhouse rent free and to take what was left of the endowment.'

- As if this was not enough, an examiner's report, which was handed to the headmaster to read at the 'Prize Distribution', stated that 'There is not a single pupil in this school who can parse a single English sentence'. Shortly after this, Mr. Dyson went on to be the Rector of a Suffolk parish, where he died in 1921. At Newport's School things began to improve under the next headmaster, a Mr. Parvin, and in 1912 the new school was founded on its present site. The old school in Birch Abbey was pulled down in the 1960's, but a number of photographs of it exist.

We are indebted to Mr. Haydn-Snow for drawing our attention to the documents relating to Newport's school under Mr. Dyson. C.J.J.

THE GREAT 1 - BROMOBUTANE EXPERIMENT

Everybody, at some stage in his or her life, faces a crisis. Such a time of enormous pressure from stress, anxiety and great frustration occurs, for many Lower 6th chemistry students during the most notorious experiment of their school careers.

The experiment is, assessed by their teachers and the marks go towards their A level result. The idea is to synthesize a certain substance by means of several chemical steps. Marks are docked for loss of product, impurity of product, starting again and being too slow. The secret of success is just to do everything right first shot, and, as Mr. Johnson would say, to 'READ THE STUDENT'S BOOK'.

Here are extracts from the diary of an A.G.S. student in 1984 :

Monday March 26th 9.30 a.m. : Mr. Johnson unleashes students with immortal words '... and don't forget to read the Student's Book'.

9.45 a.m. : Mr. Johnson did not seem to like the way I had prepared my starting mixture ... 'Not like that you blithering idiot! Start again and this time read the Student's Book'!

9.47 a.m. : Began 1-bromobutane experiment mark II. Managed to catch rest of class by end of lesson.

Wednesday 28th 9.40 a.m. : A 'friend' cheerfully informed me that I had left my apparatus unstoppeder for 2 days. 'Probably lost half your product by evaporation' he chuckled.

9.56 a.m. : First in lab. Determined to re-start quickly. Poured product away. Began 1-bromobutane experiment, mark III.

9.58 a.m. : Mr. Johnson entered lab. Told us not to worry if we had left our apparatus unstoppeder since only a fraction of product would have evaporated.

9.59 a.m. : Kind friends restrained me from shrieking wildly and banging my head against fume cupboard.

10.00 to 10.30 a.m. : Cheered by watching Chris Christou and Glenn Anderson - Product Boilers Inc. - in action. Dense black fumes of wasted product seemed to activate the fireman instinct in James Leek. The rubber tubing carrying water to his condenser wonked loose and snaked wildly across bench, soaking everything within a 7 foot radius.

10.30 to 10.55 a.m. : Mr. Johnson brought out his camera. All attempted to look intelligent and distinguished, with surprising success.

10.55 a.m. : James's sink found to be blocked. Despite the fact that most of the water from his condenser was lying on nearby students, sink was filling at alarming rate. The patented Bartlett-McCarthy water diversion exercise was brought into operation at last moment (James had to be desperate) to prevent serious flooding.

Thursday 29th : All went well!

Friday 30th : All well. Worked diligently during lunchtime and almost caught up fellow workers. Leila Khan, first person to finish, did so today.

Monday 2nd April 9.50 a.m. : Steve 'Slick' Hemingway discovered that he had not released enough gas from his apparatus. The stopper blew out of his tap funnel, spraying product and conc. sulphuric acid in a most spectacular fashion. Only two people did not fall over laughing: Julian Murgatroyd - his folder received most of the conc. sulphuric acid, and Slick. Incredibly, Slick - who had only 2 steps left to complete -

neither broke down in tears nor burst into hysterical laughter at the prospect of a re-start. He kept a remarkably stiff upper lip throughout, even when Mr. Johnson cheerfully encouraged him to pay more attention to the 'procedure' instructions given in the Student's Book.

10.20 a.m. : I masterfully performed the mistake against which we had all been warned at least 20 times. Poured product into tap funnel - and watched it pour right out of the bottom of the tap funnel, completely unhindered by the tap in the fully open position. Having stood in stunned amazement for a couple of minutes, I quietly sat down whimpering softly.

10.25 a.m. : Began 1-bromobutane experiment mark IV.

Wednesday 4th April : Muddled through.

Thursday 5th : ATI went well!

Friday 6th : Despite employing James Leek's fireman trick to soak my shirt and ruin Fiona Apsley's homework, I had finished! Then all I had to do was the write-up. But that is another school magazine article.

A. Nonymous
(Name and address supplied)



KINWARTON PARISH CHURCH

DEBATING 1983-84

This year has been a quiet one for the Debating Society, although some interesting subjects have arisen.

Only three debates took place internally, the first of which was highly philosophical and concerned the extent of the universe. As my first debate at the School I found the arguments drab and uninteresting so, to liven it up and introduce a more relaxed atmosphere, I decided to fall off the stage. My antics had the desired effect and I proceeded to discuss the role of bananas and square planets in the universe. Unfortunately the house did not agree with my views, and my associate and I were defeated.

As usual the Great Red Balloon debate, a tradition since last year, provided an opportunity for sixth formers and a member of the staff, (name withheld by special request of Mr. Percival), to 'Display their immaturity, impersonate their idols, (Alistair Roeves went as Daisy the Cow), and practise the art of falling from a balloon or whatever'. This quotation from a typical sixth former illustrates the degree of understanding shown by members of the audience.

At the end of the year, Mr. Balaam decided that members of the Debating Society were ready to be entered in a debating competition to be held on the penultimate day of the Summer Term. Despite Mr. Balaam's sudden and totally unexpected removal from the school grounds by two men in white coats, the team reached the area final after a display of outstanding skill and luck; there were only two entrants.

Kineton appeared as our main opponents. They were easy favourites, having won in the two previous years, but, undaunted, our team, consisting of Mr. David Holloway, Mr. Richard McCarthy, Mr. Thomas Holmes (the junior member of the team) and myself, a new addition to the School, proceeded to amuse the house and the judges with witty and unsuspected remarks which came out in dribs and drabs. As it turned out this dribbling and drabbing won the competition and our team became the Area Schools Debating Champions. David Holloway, as first speaker, collected the highly polished silver rose bowl donated to the Junior Chamber of Commerce debating champions by Dixon, Dobson and Carver, estate agents.

So the year ended with a shining success despite the slowness of events as a whole. The team will be representing the School early next term in the second stage of the competition. I can only hope that our unexpected success will continue to be both unexpected and successful.

Stephen Hemingway

THE CHRISTIAN UNION

The Christian Union meets on Mondays at 12.35 in the Geography Room. It is run by James Butterworth and James Couchman, who organise various activities which include quizzes, drama and Bible studies.

We are always pleased to welcome new members, so please don't be afraid to come along.

James Butterworth

THE ART CLUB

The Art Club meets every week; it is open to everybody. It does not matter how good or bad you are at Art because Mr. Sparkes sets projects and competitions at all levels.

For those who do not want to join in the projects lots of other activities are available. You could draw or paint, model in clay, or create something entirely original of your own from the materials available.

Look at the notice board to find out when your year-group can come to Art Club during the lunch hour.

Caroline Stern

THE CROSS-COUNTRY CLUB

Last year was a very enjoyable one for the Cross-Country Club; anyone who is interested should come along just for a swim in the River Arrow if nothing else. Anyway a good run around the local countryside will do you a power of good; we meet after school - watch the notice boards for details of our activities.

Our thanks must go to Mr. Cowell for organising it all and to Mrs. Lowe and Mr. Sparkes who run with us regularly and take charge when Mr. Cowell is otherwise occupied.

Thomas Stern and Robin Harris

METALWORK CLUB

Last year Metalwork Club met on Tuesday at lunchtime and on Wednesday after school; Mr. Maund was always on hand to help with any difficulties. A fair number attended the lunchtime sessions, but attendance after school was slightly disappointing.

This year we hope for better attendance since the woodwork and metalwork rooms have been merged into one. This will allow a greater variety of techniques to be used in the various pieces of work.

The foundry equipment has been improved with the introduction of a new forge and brazing equipment which should lessen the chances of any unsuspecting person singeing his or her eyebrows and hair.

The Metalwork Club is open to anyone to come along and make anything they choose.

Robin Woodger

WOODWORK CLUB

Woodwork Club carried on in the school year 1983-84 at lunchtime on Thursday. Quite a number of people attended and we were able to make whatever we chose. We are very grateful to Mr. Maund for giving up his time to help us.

Andrew Childs

THE DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS SOCIETY

Many of you will be wondering what Dungeons and Dragons (D. and D., for short) is all about. D and D is an example of a role-playing game, or R.P.G. This is a game in which each player takes the role of a character, who makes decisions and actions, limited only by feasibility, not rules, during the game.

There are two types of players in the game. One is the Dungeon Master (D.M.) and a number of other ordinary players take part - usually between two and seven. The D.M. creates a fantasy setting and an objective for the players, and also runs the game. In that setting the players attempt to achieve the objective. During the adventure the players may face many problems, and fell creatures placed in the setting by the D.M. The rules only aid the creation of characters and govern such actions as combat-casting spells and the general running of the game.

This is only a brief outline of the game, intended to whet your appetite for a fascinating hobby. Of course D. and D. is only one example of an R.P.G. There are many others with such backgrounds as science-fiction, twentieth century, wild-west and History.

The fantasy setting with its warriors, wizards, priests and thieves, and its human and non-human races is the most popular.

As you can see, the actual game is only a part of the whole hobby of role-playing. The best way to find out more, and become a part of the hobby is to come along to the School's role-playing society. We meet at lunchtime on Monday and Friday, and after school on Friday, in rooms 9 and 10. Unfortunately, owing to the popularity of the hobby, we have to limit it to 3rd year and above. Most of us play D. and D., but we are willing to play any other R.P.G. if there is enough support for it. The club is organised and run by Julian Murgatroyd and Matthew Probert, and our thanks must go to Mr. Brinson, our representative from the staff.

Julian Murgatroyd
Matthew Probert

THE CHESS CLUB

Early in the Autumn Term the Chess Club was re-founded under the guidance of Mr. Wood, with the long-term objective of fostering interest in the game throughout the School, and ultimately of forming a team to take part in competitions.

There has been considerable support from the lower School; meetings officially take place in Room 3 at lunchtime on Wednesday. Unofficial meetings go on during most lunchtimes with about 20 pupils playing Chess.

Two Chess Ladders have been started - one for juniors (years 1 to 3) and one for seniors (Sixth Formers) - and these have involved those concerned in some enthusiastic competition.

As co-founders we would like to thank Mr. Wood for his guidance and support.

Chris Christou and
Julian Murgatroyd

CANOE CLUB'84

This year the canoeing section welcomed the arrival of a new Canadian canoe. The arrival of this craft greatly increased the number of swims this year, every capsize introducing the murky depths of the Avon to two more landlubbers, as well as the very experienced and highly trained expert kayakist told to look after them.

Barton rapids claimed its usual toll of capsizes, thus increasing the number of well-engineered rescues executed by the more experienced paddlers amongst us.

Great fun was had by all who dared join the Canoe Club, and our thanks must go to Mr. Cowell and Mrs. Albon for organising things generally and supervising the activities on the river.

Liam Hurley

BARNARDO'S

As usual, the first income of the School year came from Form 1's Christmas Tree collection of £40 and the 'Non-Uniform Day', well supported as usual, brought in £89. Katy Howell, Thea Hughes, Kate Newey and Karon Woodward went carol singing in the Bell Court at Stratford-on-Avon and raised £54 - I congratulate them on their enterprise. Nearly £11 was raised from carol singing by Tabitha Davison and Lara Fenton - I am grateful for their continued support.

Mrs. Matthews gave us £2 from a 'Samson Project' in Form 1 and the annual box opening raised £221 - a grand total at the end of the School year of £418.

I should like to express my thanks to everyone who supports us so well despite all the other calls on their generosity.

K.G.M.

CONGRATULATIONS

Once again members and friends of the School have been achieving things that deserve our warm congratulations. Among our various competition winners are Alan Baker who won a prize in the 'Film Buff of Redditch Competition' and Michael Humphrey who became 'Warwickshire Cyclist of the Year' and is to go on to try to win the 'National Cyclist of the Year' title in 1985. Rowena Wade won first prize in a competition organized by a body called British Trade Alphabets and thereby secured £275 for the School. Mark Preston-Mafham is an up-and-coming wildlife photographer it would seem; he was a runner-up in the Junior Section of a photographic competition organised by 'Wildlife Magazine'.

On the academic side it is very gratifying that two more of our pupils gained entrance to 'Oxbridge'; Mark Evans goes to take up a place at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, to read Physics and Claire Linfoot is to read French with Arabic at Trinity College, Cambridge.

On the sporting side Andrew Marshall became runner-up in the Alcester Squash Club Plate Handicap. Carl Ravenhall represented Warwickshire at the National Lifesaving competition in Kent and will represent the County again at a similar competition to be held in October in the West Midlands.

The Preston-Mafham family achieved another distinction when Dr. Preston-Mafham and his brother Ken, (a wildlife photographer of international status), published their book 'Spiders of the World' in July. The photographs, (both brothers have contributed), are out of this world and text is as readable and informative as it could be. Buy a copy as soon as possible!

Sally Smith recently distinguished herself in a way which we cannot recall reporting in 'The Record' before. Sally had the honour to represent Warwickshire in a show-jumping competition which was held at the Burghley Horse Trials early in September.

Finally it is appropriate that an act of kindness should not go without public notice. Tabitha Davison, Andrea Woodrow and Fay Baldry have regularly turned out in all sorts of weather during the past year to look after Clive Savage's garden. Clive, who lives in Alcester, was at the School himself (1961-68) and was Head Boy in due course. He is unable to tend his garden himself because he suffers from Multiple Sclerosis and finds it very hard to get about.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

All subjects are taken with the University of Oxford Local Board except for mathematics and further mathematics at Advanced and S-levels, and additional mathematics, which are taken with the Cambridge Local Board.

CODE:

e-English language, el-English literature, f-French, g-German, h-history, ec-economics, gy-geography, m-mathematics, fm-further mathematics, am-additional mathematics, p-physics, c-chemistry, b-biology, hb-human biology, mw-metalwork, ed-engineering drawing, he-home economics, a-art, mu-music, cs-computer studies, l-Latin, rs-religious studies, nwd-needlework and dress, fn-food and nutrition.

* denotes that the highest grade was awarded. Distinction and merit at S-level are denoted by 1 and 2 respectively.

AUTUMN 1983

ORDINARY LEVEL

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------|----------------|--------|
| Robin Holland | : m | Sarah Geden | : fn |
| Sarah Diston | : m,fn,a | Stephen Molloy | : ec |
| Jane Watton | : m | Cindy Clarke | : m |
| Susan Dawes | : fn | Mandy Watton | : fn |
| Jonathan Archer | : el | Graham Farmer | : f |
| Helen Wilmot | : el, f | Alison Molloy | : m,b |
| Sarah Jones | : b | Sonia Harris | : m,hb |
| Julie Pugh | : el | Robert Knight | : c |

SUMMER 1984

ADVANCED LEVEL

Upper Sixth

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------|------------------|--------------|
| James Blundell | : m,p,c | Richard Devey | : p,c |
| Mark Hamblin | : m,p,c | Nicholas Harris | : m,p*,c |
| Duncan Paget | : ec,g | Richard Reader | : p*,b |
| Kurt Tolley | : p,c,b | David Jones | : c |
| Stephanie Brewin | : f,ec | Johanna Clarie | : el,c,b |
| Isabel Drummond- | | Julie Hawkes | : m,c,b |
| Murray | : el*,h,ec | Lucy Matthews | : el,f,h |
| Sarah Jones | : el,f,h | David Harris | : p |
| Victor Christou | : m,p*,c* | Neil Johnson | : g |
| Tim Jenkins | : ec,gs | Michael Stevens | : m,p,c |
| Ian Parker | : fm,p,c | Jill Blakey | : el,f,fn |
| David Taylor | : m,p,ed | Sian Hughes | : f,ec*,a |
| Cindy Clarke | : f | Susan Newell | : c,b |
| Sally Miller | : p,c,b | Tim Hood | : h,ec,g |
| Michael Hemingway | : m,p,c | Gary Strain | : p,c |
| Stephen Molloy | : ec | Jane Beddowes | : ec |
| Rachel Baker | : el,g* | Lisa Gascoigne | : p,c,b |
| Fiona Davis | : el,ec | Sarah Newey | : p,c2,b |
| Lesley King | : p,c,b | Richard Brougham | : c |
| Ewunia Spiewakowska | : ec,g | Anthony Knight | : m,p,c |
| Mark Evans | : p*, c* | Vaughan Tanner | : p*,c*,b* |
| Andrew Richmond | : g,ec | Angela Fisher | : ec,g*,b |
| Helen Archer | : g | Deborah Preece | : ec,p |
| Janet Hunt | : p | Darren Blewett | : ec* |
| Philippa Winter | : h*,ec,g | Robert Haring | : ec,m |
| Philip Haigh | : m,p,c | David Laughlin | : b |
| Brian Hemming | : ec,g | Vernon Elliott | : m*,b |
| Alastair Rooves | : p*,c*,b* | Sarah Beck | : el,h,ec |
| Melvin Crane | : m,p,c | Lisa Cook | : h,a |
| Nicola Brookhouse | : f | Marcia Lavender | : p,c,b* |
| Jenny Harrison | : mu,fn | Dianne Retter | : ec,m,c |
| Claire Linfoot | : f*2,g,h | Simon Biffin | : p,c,b |
| Anna Thomson | : ec,c,b | Mark Foster | : h*,ec*2,g* |
| Simon Burroughes | : m,p,c | Martin Hedges | : m,p,c |
| Keith Hancock | : m,p,c | Peter Ratcliffe | : g, fm, c* |
| Simon Hill | : ed | Louise Bickley | : el,m |
| John Ward | : m,p*,c | Joanne Harrison | : g,ec |
| Sallie Gill | : ec,m | Lindsey Portman | : f |
| Claire Leavesley | : f,ec | | |

Lower Sixth - Mathematics

Richard Brice*, Christos Christou*, Trevor Humphrey, Colin Martin, Clifford Moore, Julian Murgatroyd, Matthew Probert*, Mark Waldron, Fiona Apsley.

ORDINARY LEVEL

Fifth Forms

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Keith Baldry | : e*, el, f, g, c, p*, b, am |
| Andrew Barney | : e, c, p, b, ed, am |
| Michael Bennett | : e, gy, c, p, mw |
| Phillip Buglass | : e, el, gy |
| David Griffiths | : e*, el, f*, m*, c, p, b |
| James Guthrie | : e, gy, f |
| Mark Jewitt | : e*, el*, gy*, f*, c, p*, b, am |
| Lawrence Jones | : e*, el*, gy, f*, c*, p*, b*, am* |
| Ross Nicholls | : e, el, c, p*, mw*, ed*, am |
| Robert Redman | : e*, el, gy, f, c, p, b |
| Andrew Thomson | : e, el, gy, c, p*, mw*, am |
| Nicholas Wootton-Jones | : e, el*, h, m, c, p, b |
| Jacqueline Bailey | : e, el, f, m, fn |
| Lisa Buffery | : e, el*, h, f, m, hb* |
| Suzanne Coldicutt | : el, hb, fn |
| Rosanne Daggatt | : e, el, h, f, m, hb |
| Vivien Evans | : e*, el*, h, f, m, b, fn, a |
| Cheryl Harper | : e, el*, f, c, p, b, fn, am |
| Kathryn Howell | : e*, el*, gy, f*, g, m, b, mu |
| Thea Hughes | : e, el*, g, f, c, p, b, mu, am |
| Teresa Jackson | : e, el, f, c, p, b, am |
| Tracey McCalman | : e*, el, gy*, f, c, p, b, mu |
| Tracey Masterson | : el, f, m, p, a |
| Katherine Newey | : e, el*, f, c, p, b |
| Rebecca Simmons | : e, el, h, f, m, c, b, a |
| Caroline Smalley | : e, el, fn |
| Sally Smith | : e, el, h, gy, f, g |
| Sara Wood | : e*, el*, gy, f, m, c*, p, b* |
| Karon Woodward | : e, el, h, f*, m, b |
| Helen Wright | : e*, el*, h, f, m, c, p, b |
| Andrew Butler | : e, el, h, m, c, p |
| Marcus Carter | : e, el, p, ed |
| Simon Davis | : e*, f, m, a, ed |
| Timothy Golder | : e, f, m*, c, p*, b, mw* |
| Stephen Hall | : e, el, f, m, c, p, mw |
| Leslie Hancocks | : e, gy, m, c, p, b |
| Paul Holl | : e, el*, gy, f, c, p*, mw*, am |
| Liam Hurley | : e, el, f, c, p, b, mw |
| Stephen Sidaway | : e, m*, c, p, mw*, ed* |
| Mark Sreeves | : m, p, mw |
| Philip Teasdale | : e, el, h, gy, m, p |
| Andrew Williams | : e, el, gy, f, m*, c, p*, mw |
| Robin Woodger | : e*, el, gy, f, c, p, mw* |
| Steven Young | : e, el, gy, f, m*, c, p*, mw* |
| Graham Farmer | : e, gy, m, p |
| Gillian Bubb | : el, f, m*, c, p, b, a |
| Kay Coleman | : e, el, f, m*, p |
| Sarah Cotton | : e*, el*, h*, gy, f*, c, b*, am |
| Sarah Cox | : e*, el*, gy*, f, c, p, b, am |
| Samantha Davies | : e, el*, h, f, m, c, p, b |
| Caren Edwards | : e, el, h, gy, f, m, fn |

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Ingrid Elliott | : e*, el*, gy, f*, c, p, b*, am |
| Rachael Haines | : e*, el, h, gy, f*, g, m, hb* |
| Karen Harman | : e*, el*, gy*, f*, c*, p*, b*, am* |
| Karen Hims | : e, f |
| Mercedes King | : e*, el, h, f, m, fn* |
| Sarah Payne | : e*, el*, f, c, p*, b, a, am |
| Katharine Pickles | : el, f, m, hb, fn |
| Katie Pritchard | : el, f, m, c, p, fn |
| Lyn Ratcliffe | : e, el, gy*, f*, c, p, b, am |
| Louise Ross | : e*, el*, gy, f, m*, p, b, mu |
| Amanda Strain | : m, fn, a |

Upper Sixth - Ordinary Level Subjects

Richard Devey - cs; Brian Hemming - cs; David Laughlin - cs;
 Nicola Brookhouse - 1; Claire Linfoot - 1*; Simon Hill - cs;
 Lindsey Portman - cs.

Lower Sixth - Ordinary Level Subjects

Andrea Copping - ec; Mary Laughlin - ec*; Fiona Lawrence - ec;
 Judith Ratledge - ec; Carole Retter - cs; Lynn Tyrer - ec, cs; Paul
 Appelquist - cs*; Martin Bartlett - cs; Clive Cowin - ec; Simon Crick -
 ec; William Feast - ec; Jonathan Guest - ec*, cs; Stephen Hemingway - cs*;
 David Holloway - cs; Gareth Hubbard - ec; Iain King - ec; Robert Knight -
 cs; Gregory Mason - cs; James Leek - a, cs*; Richard McCarthy - cs;
 Brian Nicholson - cs*; Ian Rawlings - cs; Trevor Humphrey - ec;

Fourth Forms - Mathematics

Paul Bradley, Paul Brice*, James Couchman*, Andrew Heywood*, Andrew
 Hedges*, Robert Lewis, Andrew Marshall*, Fay Baldry*, Kay Lewis, Vicky
 McCarthy*, Adrian Escott*, Matthew Farmer, Mark Hancox*, Thomas Holmes,
 Robert Sergeant*, Emma Maloney.

Once again we must apologise for an error in last edition of 'The Record' - in the exam. results section we failed to credit Martin Barlett with Additional Mathematics and awarded Mandy Watton a pass in Art instead of Music.

STAFF NEWS

Once again we have to say farewell to a number of members of the Staff who have been with us for many years.

Mr. Petherbridge was a student at the University College of the South West (now the University of Exeter), reading Geography, when the war started in 1939. His studies were interrupted by service in the 10th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, from 1941 to 1945. Much of this time was spent in India and Burma; during this campaign he was awarded the Military Medal. Resuming his course at the University in 1945, he was awarded his B.A. in 1946 and came to A.G.S., after training as a teacher, in 1947. At first he taught Geography, French and Games; he became Head of Geography upon the retirement of Ernest Walker, and Senior Master in 1962 in succession to Mr. W. Thornton. The pupils will remember him for his quiet helpful way of teaching and his enthusiasm

for his subject. The Staff will miss his fund of stories of times gone by at A.G.S., and the efficient way in which he organised day to day matters. The 'Chair of Geography' in the Marking Room will seem empty without him; we are to lose a valued friend as well as a colleague.

Mrs. Petherbridge came to the School in 1943, during the war-time emergency, having obtained her degree in French and German at Exeter. She arrived at the School as Miss Chandler, and taught both French and German at A.G.S. until 1950, continuing as a part-time teacher until 1953. She left us then, returning in a sort of re-incarnation in 1967, and starting the teaching of German in the School again in 1971. Pupils will remember her help and encouragement with their studies at both Ordinary and Advanced levels; the Staff will remember her quiet, un-ruffled approach to events, however dire the crisis.

Mr. Dickinson came to us in 1964 after experience at Watford Technical High School, Westwood's Grammar School in Northleach, and Hugh Clopton School in Stratford-upon-Avon (now known as Stratford High School). At A.G.S. he taught Engineering Drawing, Woodwork, and very traditional Mathematics. He has been held in affectionate regard by pupils and Staff alike, largely I suspect, because as a raconteur he can have few equals; the tales of his encounters with sergeants-major, Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, matrons of hospitals, railway officials and the like have made us all laugh on innumerable occasions. Set down in print they would fill many volumes, my only regret is that we did not have a tape recorder running permanently in the Staffroom to preserve them all for posterity.

To all those who are about to retire we send our good wishes for the future and our hopes that they will enjoy a long and happy retirement.

At Easter we lost Mr. Watts. He came to us in 1979 and in five years built up the Computer Studies department from nothing to a very flourishing concern. He goes from A.G.S. to take charge of Information Technology at St. Phillip's Sixth Form College in Birmingham and we wish him every success in his new appointment.

We also have to say farewell to a number of part-time teachers who have not been with us quite so long, but whom we are just as sorry to lose. Mrs. Cass and Mrs. Berry, who both taught History, and Mrs. Robinson, who taught Computer Studies and Mathematics in the absence of Mr. Watts, all left us at the end of the Summer Term.

Another sad loss will be that of Mrs. E. Lewis, who has been Supervisor of School Meals at A.G.S. for more than 20 years. We will miss her cheerful manner and efficient organisation, and not least, the splendid food which she provided.

We must also extend a warm welcome to a number of new members of Staff and hope that they have a long, happy and successful stay with us.

Mr. M. Layton, who joins us as 2nd Deputy Head, is a graduate of the University of Leicester, where he read Mathematics and Statistics. He taught at Leicester Boys' Grammar School, and Immingham Comprehensive in his early career; before coming to us he was Head of Mathematics and Computer Studies at Henley High School. He is interested in photography, squash, chess and fell-walking.

Miss J. Rowberry, who joins us as Head of History, is a graduate of the University of Birmingham. Before coming to us she was Head of

History at Greville High School. Her interests include sport, and historical buildings and sites.

Mrs. C. Meadowcroft who joins us to teach German and French, is a graduate of the University of Cambridge; she was at Churchill College in that University. Her previous experience includes teaching at Hobart High School in Lincolnshire and Mount Carmel High School in Lancashire; at the latter establishment she was Head of German. Her interests include backstage work in drama and work with school magazines. Your editors have noted the latter point with more than usual interest. Before she came to us, Mrs. Meadowcroft was at Myton High School in Warwick.

Miss S. Belton who has come to teach Geography and Games is a graduate of the University of Birmingham, where she read Geography. She is interested in all kinds of sport, and represented the University at both squash and tennis; among her other interests are music and the theatre. She holds the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

Finally we have great pleasure in welcoming Mrs. M. Perrett as a successor to Mrs. Lewis, particularly since she is an Old Scholar and a member of the McCarthy family which has made such a great contribution to the School.

OLD SCHOLARS' NEWS

EXAMINATION SUCCESSES

Julian Wain (1975-81) has been awarded the degree of B.Ll with Honours, class 2(i) at the University of Leicester.

Jonathan Wright (1978-80) has been awarded a B.A. in European Studies at the University of East Anglia.

David Shore (1973-79), Stephen McCarthy (1972-79) and David Robertson (1972-79) have all been awarded the degrees of M.B., Ch.B. at the University of Birmingham, and are thereby launched upon careers in Medicine.

Justin Wilks (1978-80) has been awarded the degree of B.Sc., class 2(i) in Environmental Studies at Hatfield Polytechnic.

Jane Broderick (1973-80) has been awarded the degree of B.A. with Honours, class 2(i) in European Community Studies (German and French) at Cardiff University, and her brother David (1974-81) has gained the degree of B.Sc. class 2(i) at the same University in Metallurgy and Materials Science.

Jacqueline McAloon (1978-80) gained a B.A.2(ii) at Digby Stuart College in 1983.

David Hemingway (1974-81) has been awarded a B.Sc in Geology at the University of Durham.

Caroline Ritchie (1974-81) has obtained a B.A. class 2(i) in History and Politics at the University of Warwick.

Jennifer Sinclair (née Manley, 1974-81) has been awarded the degree of B.Ll., class 2(i) at the University of Leicester.

In 1983, Amanda Wearing (1976-81) was promoted to Exhibitioner at Brasenose, her college in the University of Oxford, as well as receiving Collection Prizes in Comparative Law and Land Law. In January 1984 she won a Harmsworth Entrance Exhibition to the Middle Temple, and in July

was awarded a 2(i) degree in Jurisprudence at the University of Oxford. In September she began to read for her Bar examinations and she has pupillage arranged at a set of Chambers in Birmingham for 1985.

Melanie Green (1973-80) has been awarded the degree of B.A. Class 2(i) in French Studies at the University of Sussex.

OTHER NEWS

Mandy Allen (1973-80) has now completed her training for the Post Graduate Certificate in Education at the University of Cardiff, in Mathematics and Physical Education.

Richard Bakewell (1959-66) is now working as a Civil Engineer for McAlpine Construction Ltd. He lives in Romsey in Hampshire with his wife and two children, aged 8 and 5.

Helen Quigley (1973-1980) is now working for the Post Office Catering Service at Hastings. She is manager of the Staff Restaurant.

Maurice Beale (1963-70) has been awarded a Ph.D. in Electronics at the University of Kent and is now a lecturer at Manchester University.

Andrew Briggs (1966-73) is to start a B.A. course in Archaeology at the University of Birmingham in September 1984.

Jean Causier (1973-80) is now working at Pragnells the jewellers in Stratford-on-Avon.

David Lawrence (1976-82) has been following 'A' level courses at Redditch College of Further Education after working as assistant manager at a boatyard. He is Editor of the college newspaper and several of his articles have appeared in 'The Redditch Advertiser', 'The Sports Argus', and 'The Sunday Mercury'.

Peter Handy (1956-63) is now pre-contracts manager for Rolls-Royce in Montreal, Canada, where he lives with his wife and two children, Caroline aged 9 and Stephen 7.

Christopher Handy (1954-60) now lives in Selly Oak and works in the data processing department of Cadbury-Schweppes Ltd.

Neale Allen (1971-77) is now working for a Ph.D. in Production Management at the University of Bradford and is about to start his second year of research.

Ruth Grier (1975-82) is now working at the Meteorological Office in Bracknell and is to start an H.N.C. course at Reading in September.

Brett Freeman (1970-77) is just finishing work for his Ph.D. in Structural Geology at the University of Nottingham and has spent the last year at Newcastle University where he has a 3 year appointment as a lecturer/demonstrator.

We have received a lot of news of the Seeney family. Mike (1969-76) is to join an expedition to the South Pole in September 1984. The party will travel via the Cape of Good Hope and Australia to Antarctica. Two men will be dropped off, then the ship will return to Australia and the men will walk to the Pole and back and be picked up by the ship in the following Summer. Mike has been in charge of getting food supplies and organising sponsorship. Tom (1967-74) is working in the personnel department of Geoservices (they produced Geological logs of boreholes) in Paris. John (1975-77) is to go to the English College in Valladolid in Northern Spain to study for the Catholic Priesthood.

Jim Toseland (1976-78) is teaching P.E. at Hastings High School in Hinckley. He has been appointed Honorary Captain of Exhall Cricket Club.

Christine Baldwin (1971-78) has obtained an appointment at the Sarum Training Centre (for handicapped people) in Salisbury. She recently completed a course in teaching the mentally handicapped, in Manchester.

Alison Scott (1971-78) is doing her pre-registration year, after graduating from medical school, at Dorchester Hospital. She also features in the 'Marriages' section of Old Scholars' News.

Maria Gennoy (1975-82) has a place at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary to train as a nurse; she is to specialise in work with the mentally ill.

Tim Haigh (1974-80) has recently purchased Salford Hall in his home village of Salford Priors, and is about to convert it into a luxury hotel at a cost reputed to be in the region of £500,000.

Lorraine Coldicott (nee Fear, 1965-70) is now a State Enrolled Nurse and is working at Alcester Hospital.

Richard Chilton (1973-80) graduated in 1983 from the University of Leeds with a 2(i) Honours degree in Civil Engineering and is now working for a Ph.D.

David Apsley (1975-82) has been promoted from Exhibitioner to Scholar at Churchill College, Cambridge.

Anne Griffiths (1974-81) was awarded a College Bursary at St. Andrew's University at the end of her second year.

Mark Greenaway (1975-82) has completed his training as an officer in the Royal Navy and has started fleet training as a midshipman on board HMS Shetland.

Rupert Collins (1975-77) is nearing the end of his clinical training at University of Dundee Medical School; he hopes to qualify in June 1985.

Simon Plummer (1969-76) has been awarded a Ph.D. at the University of London after three years of work at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith Hospital. He has now taken up a visiting Fellowship for one year at the National Institute of Health in Washington DC where he is to do advanced research in biochemical epidemiology.

Clive Biddle (1968-75) recently qualified as a member of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (MRSC) and is now a Chartered Chemist employed with Schenectady-Midland Ltd. in Wolverhampton.

Alex Lavender (1973-78) is a trainee area sales consultant for a photocopying firm in Luton.

Lesley Harris (1972-79) is now working for the Moat House group and is in charge of the Carvery at the Midland Hotel in Birmingham.

Stephen Shirley (1976-83) has been awarded a University Cadetship by the Army for his degree course in Transport Management at the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, which he starts in October 1984.

We were pleased to hear recently from Percy Perks who was one of the senior boys in 1912, when the Birmingham Road School opened. He appears on our earliest school photograph (it hangs in the main corridor) as does his late wife. Percy now lives in a war veteran's home in Queensland, Australia. He wrote to the Headmaster requesting a copy of the very photograph in which he appears.

Stephen Thomas (1976-83) has been accepted by the University of Cardiff to read Geography.

After a year working for an architectural illustrator in Kansas City, U.S.A., Anne Hunt (1973-80) is now back at Heriot-Watt University

completing her architectural training.

Rosemary John (1965-72) was working as Superintendent Physio-therapist in the specialist sector of the West Birmingham Health District and was Clinical Supervisor for students from the School of Physiotherapy attached to Queen Elizabeth Hospital, until 1981. She then left the National Health Service to join her mother in private practice in Studley.

BIRTHS

1983 : To Mr. and Mrs. Michael Reynolds (née Jacqueline Shaw, 1969-76) a daughter, Jessica Louise.

1984 : To Mr. and Mrs Nicholas de Lotbinière (née Catherine Plummer, 1972-74) a daughter, Charlotte Laura.

: To John (1968-73) and Susie Robertson, a daughter, Sarah Louise.

DEATHS

We have learnt of the death of Robert Mander, who entered the School in 1914, at Selly Oak Hospital in May 1984. He was Headmaster of Kelsick Grammar School in Cumbria from 1936-65.

MARRIAGES

1982 : Michael Reynolds to Jacqueline Shaw (1969-76)

1983 : John Robinson to Mig Holte (1963-68)

1984 : Jonathan Farmer to Lindsey Collins (1975-82)

David Peters (1970-78) to Sharon Jack

Gregory Atherton (1970-75) to Carol Smith

Richard Matheson to Elizabeth McCarthy (1974-80)

Jim Rankin to Trudy Stanley (1977-79)

Stephen Goodman to Alison Collett (1972-79)

Ian Duffin (1969-75) to Paula Reeves

Dr. Chris Haliwell to Alison Scott (1971-78)

Clive Devey (1971-78) to Kay Millard (1975-80).

K.G.M.

LEAVERS AND THEIR DESTINATIONS

SIXTH FORM LEAVERS

To Universities :

Rachel Baker (Economics at Bangor); Sarah Beck (Social Anthropology at East Anglia); Simon Burroughes (Chemical Engineering at UMIST); Victor Christou (Chemistry at Imperial College, London); Johanna Clarie (Food Science at Reading); Isabel Drummond-Murray (International Studies at St. Andrews); Melvin Crane (Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Brunel); Vernon Elliot (Dentistry at Liverpool); Mark Evans (Physics at Corpus Christi College, Oxford); Mark Foster (Geography and Economics at University College, London); Mark Hamblin (Microbiology at Sheffield); Keith Hancocks (Agriculture at Nottingham); Nicholas Harris (Electronic Engineering at Bath); Martin Hedges (Metallurgy and Materials Science at

Manchester); Michael Hemingway (Metallurgy at Sheffield); Timothy Hood (Construction Engineering at UMIST); Sian Hughes (Hotel and Catering Management at Strathclyde); Anthony Knight (Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Aston); Marcia Lavender (Biology at Southampton); Claire Linfoot (French and Arabic at Trinity College, Cambridge); Sally Miller (Food Science at Leeds); Sarah Newey (Medicine at Birmingham); Nigel Payne (Mathematics at Swansea); Ian Parker (Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Aston); Peter Ratcliffe (Mathematics at Leeds); Richard Reader (Civil Engineering at Imperial College, London); Alastair Roeves (Medicine at St. George's Hospital Medical School); Michael Stevens (Engineering and Mathematics at Swansea); Vaughan Tanner (Medicine at St. George's Hospital Medical School); John Ward (Electronic Engineering at Birmingham); James Blundell (Metallurgy at Newcastle).

To Polytechnics, Colleges and Institutes of Higher Education :

Simon Biffin (Pharmacy at Portsmouth Poly); Jill Blakey (B.Ed. at Trent Poly); Nicola Brookhouse (Bilingual Business Administration at Preston Poly); Richard Brougham (Materials Science at Lanchester Poly); Sallie Gill (B.Ed. at the College of St. Mark and St. John, Plymouth); Philip Haigh (Information Systems Engineering at Lanchester Poly); Robert Haring (B.Ed. at Worcester College of Higher Education); Joanne Harrison (Hotel Management at Gloucester College of Arts and Technology); Janet Hunt (Food Technology at Manchester Poly); Sarah Jones (Contemporary European Studies at North London Poly); Lesley King (Chelsea School of Chiropody); Claire Leavesley (B.Ed. at the College of St. Paul and St. Mary Cheltenham); Stephen Molloy (Sports Science at Crewe and Alsager College); Susan Newell (Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy, Oxford); Duncan Paget (Accountancy at Huddersfield Poly); Lindsey Portman (Modern Languages at South Wales Poly, Pontypridd); Ewunia Spiewakowska (B.Ed. at the College of St. Paul and St. Mary Cheltenham); David Taylor (Mechanical Engineering at Plymouth Poly); Anna Thomson (Bradford School of Physiotherapy); Kurt Tolley (Applied Chemistry at Lanchester Poly).

To Colleges of Further Education :

Helen Archer (Bilingual Secretarial Diploma at EWCFE); Stephanie Brewin (Personal Assistant's Diploma at MWCFE); Lucinda Clarke (Bilingual Secretarial Diploma at EWCFE); Lisa Cook (Art Foundation Course at MWCFE); Jenny Harrison and Philippa Winter (both to Personal Assistant's Diploma courses at MWCFE).

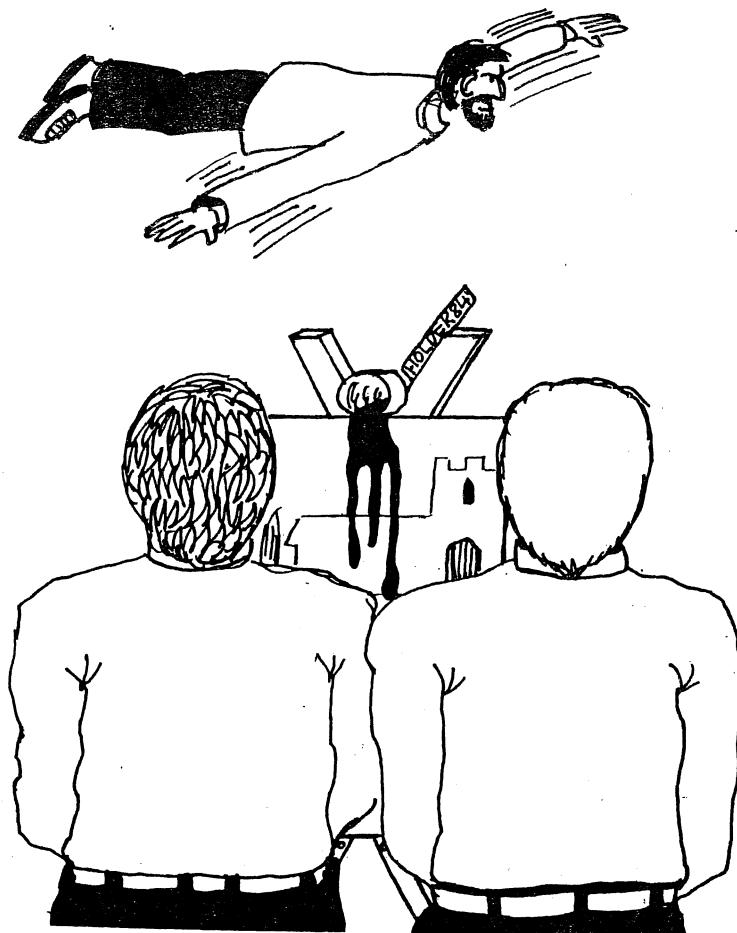
To Other Destinations :

Louise Bickley (clerical trainee with Redditch Council); Darren Blewett (employment with Lloyd's Bank); William Feast (employment with a computer firm); David Harris (technician training); Gareth Hubbard (engineering training); David Jones (employment in the family business); Deborah Lupton (clerical work); Lucy Matthews (voluntary service in the Sudan with the Project Trust); Diane Retter (employment with Lloyd's Bank).

FIFTH FORM LEAVERS

Simon Davis (Technical Graphics at MWCFE); Rosanne Daggatt (Nursery Nursing at MWCFE); Lawrence Jones (A Levels at Marling School, Stroud); Kay Coleman, Katharine Pickles (both to Redditch College); James Guthrie, Mark Sreeves (both to YTS schemes); Vivien Evans, Mercedes King (to MWFCE); Rebecca Simmons and Caroline Smalley (to SWCFE); Mandy Strain (employment in the catering industry).

"I TOLD YOU THE SPARKES
WOULD FLY"



SCHOOL REGISTER

FAREWELL

Autumn '83 - Summer '84 :

Michelle Farmer and Kathy Trout (both from 2M), Michaela Malin (L6S2),
Ashley Marten (5M), Sarah Diston (5S), Nigel Payne (U6W2), Susan Dawes
(L6W1).

Summer '84 :

U6N1

James Blundell, Richard Devey, Mark Hamblin, Nicholas Harris, Duncan
Paget, Richard Reader, Kurt Trolley, David Jones, Stephanie Brewin,
Johanna Clarie, Isabel Drummond-Murray, Julie Hawkes, Sarah Jones,
Lucy Matthews.

U6N2

Victor Christou, David Harris, Timothy Jenkins, Ian Parker, Michael
Stevens, David Taylor, Jill Blakey, Cindy Clarke, Sian Hughes, Katherine
Lewis-Jones, Sally Miller, Susan Newell.

U6S1

Nicholas Edwards, Michael Hemingway, Tim Hood, Stephen Molloy, Gary
Strain, Rachel Baker, Jane Beddowes, Lesley King, Sarah Newey, Ewunia
Spiewakowska.

U6S2

Richard Brougham, Mark Evans, Anthony Knight, Andrew Williams, Vaughan
Tanner, Helen Archer, Angela Fisher, Janet Hunt, Deborah Lupton,
Deborah Preece, Philippa Winter.

U6W1

Darren Blewett, Philip Haigh, Robert Haring, Brian Hemming, Alastair
Roeves, Vernon Elliott, Melvin Crane, Sarah Beck, Nicola Brookhouse,
Lisa Cook, Jenny Harrison, Marcia Lavender, Claire Linfoot, Dianne
Retter, Anna Thomson.

U6W2

Simon Biffin, Simon Burroughes, Mark Foster, Keith Hancocks, Martin
Hedges, Simon Hill, Peter Ratcliffe, John Ward, Louise Bickley, Sallie
Gill, Joanne Harrison, Claire Leavesley, Lindsey Portman.

Fifth Form Leavers :

James Guthrie, Lawrence Jones, John Williams, Rosanne Daggatt, Vivien
Evans, Rebecca Simmons, Caroline Smalley, Simon Davis, Mark Sreeves,
Kay Coleman, Caren Edwards, Karen Hims, Katharine Pickles, Amanda Strain.

Did you know ...?

... In 1970 the Swedes changed from driving on the left hand side of the
road to driving on the right, but public transport in Stockholm retained
the right to drive on the left for a further 2 years.

WELCOME

Autumn '83 - Summer '84 :

Simone Coward (2m - from the North School for Girls, Ashford, Kent), Glenn Anderson (L6N2 - from Mark Hall Comprehensive, Harlow, Essex), Helen Young (E6S1 - from M.W.C.F.E.), Emma Metcalf (4S - from Southam School, Warwickshire).

Autumn '84

Form 1M

Nicholas Blundell, Phillip Chambers, Neil Davis, Walter Drummond-Murray, Kevin Dyke, Nicholas Firth, Andrew Grantham, Mark Howes, William Hunter, Andrew King, Stephen Locke, James Murphy, Sarah Bagshaw, Louise Batchelor, Vikki Bowen, Claire Buratti, Caroline Davies, Alison Freeman, Dawn Gibbons, Katherine Graham, Claire Huffadine, Rachel Laidler, Clare McCarthy, Tracey Nash, Susannah Pinfield, Clare Pugh, Lucia Swinn, Emma Talbot, Sandra Warner, Ella Whitehouse.

Form 1S

Steven Barry, Matthew Boxall, Simon Crossley, Carl Davies, Russell Duggan, Justin Freeman, Michael Ingram, Paul Kiely, James Ladbury, Robert Morley, Darren Rees, Richard Walsh, Sara Bird, Sally Bohemia, Lorraine Cook, Esther Gilks, Jayne Glass, Rebecca Harris, Ann Hunt, Samantha Lawley, Rebecca Lewis, Jayne Lidsey, Claire Lindsay, Leah Macdonald, Joanna Mumford, Joanne Murdoch, Eleanor Pinfold, Sally Smith, Ruth Walsh, Jane Willis.

Phillipa Wood (4M - from Ridgeway School), Richard Russell (2M), Angela Gordon (2S), Tracey Jones (2S), Joanne Wright (2s) - all from Bidford High School.

Lower Sixth

From Greville High School: Wendy Blatchford, Sarah Richardson, Russell Harrison, Howard Lewis-Jones, Karl Vondrak, Andrew Watson.

From Studley High School: Stephen Jackson, David Squires, Sonia Galbraith, Anthony Bonsen, Gary Phillips, Stephen Young, Andrew Jones.

Did you know ... ,

... In 1982 more people were killed in Fiji by falling coconuts than have been killed in road accidents on the streets of Sheffield since 1976.

... Every time your teeth knock together when you eat a meal, between 60 and 140 brain cells die.

... According to an ancient bye-law it is illegal to whistle on any Tuesday, Thursday or Friday afternoon in Bristol.

... During the last 20 years the ratio of divorces to marriages in California has remained roughly constant, at almost three to one.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS?

NEWS OF OLD SCHOLARS REQUIRED

Our appeal for news of Old Scholars, which appeared on the rear cover of the magazine last year, brought a very gratifying response, but we would like to receive even more tidings of our alumni in future. Remember that we are always pleased to receive news of Old Scholars, no matter how long ago they left us, no matter how far away they are, and no matter who they are. But there are two important things to bear in mind:

(a) The information must be sent to us in writing. Miss Morris is in charge of gathering and collating all the Old Scholars' News, so the information should be addressed to her at the School.

(b) The information must reach us in good time before publication. It cannot be sent too early, but anything after the middle of the September before the magazine is to appear, is too late. To avoid disappointment, send in your news as soon as possible.

DELIVERY SERVICE TO OLD SCHOLARS

Copies are delivered to Old Scholars' by present pupils of the School who live in their vicinity. We send out about 300 copies to our Old Scholars, so it is quite a large scale operation, and means a large amount of work for Mr. Balaam and his distribution team. Although they always do their best, sometimes it proves impossible to send magazines to a number of Old Scholars, because no present pupils live near enough to deliver them.

Old Scholars who live in the Stratford area are particularly badly off in this respect, since so few of our present pupils come from the town. The best course of action for those Old Scholars who live in Stratford (or other distant parts where we are unable to deliver by hand), is to telephone the School and enquire the current cost of the magazine and the current postage charge, and then send a stamped, addressed A5 envelope to Mr. Johnson at the School, enclosing a cheque or postal order for the current cost of the magazine. A copy of 'The Record' will then be sent as soon as possible.

PRICE RISE

We are sorry about the price increase this year, but the magazine is eight pages longer than usual, and to hold the price at 50p would have required an unacceptably heavy subsidy from the School Fund. Anyway, at 60p, it only comes to a little over 1p per page. Quite a bargain really when you come to think of it!

Magazine Price 60p